



The King's Mercy

WARM-UP

- Has anyone ever done you a favor without asking for anything in return? Tell us about it.
- Have you ever received a gift that you felt you don't deserve? What was it? Why did you think that you don't deserve it?
- Have you ever been forgiven by a friend even though you didn't apologize to him or her? What happened? How did you feel afterward?

WORD

⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

*⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. **GENESIS 3:4-6***

The kingdom of God is not without enemies. Satan, who desired to be greater than God, deceived the first citizens of God's kingdom, Adam and Eve, causing them to disobey God and commit the first sin. Because of sin, the whole creation was corrupted (Romans 5:12). Every problem that we see in ourselves, our family, the government, environment, society, our churches, and the nations is a result of sin. Yet in spite of this tragedy, God gave us hope for redemption.

1 The Devil's Strategy

But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die."

GENESIS 3:4

God gave man a single command: do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But Satan used the same strategy that he uses now—contradicting God and casting doubt over the truth of His words. Because Adam and Eve believed the devil's lie over God's truth, sin and death entered the world (Romans 5: 17,19). What lies has the enemy thrown at you? How have you used God's Word to overcome him?

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2 Man's Disobedience

*So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. **GENESIS 3:6***

Adam and Eve's disobedience was brought about by deception and a desire that went against God's command. Because of man's disobedience, sin entered the world and corrupted God's plan. Instead of eternal life, man inherited sin, and with it spiritual and physical death. Man's sin affects the whole world, which results in societal problems. Even though we try to be the kindest person in the world and not sin, we fall short. There is nothing we can do to be sinless and blameless before the world and before God. According to Hebrews 9:22, what is the only way that sin can be forgiven?

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3 The King's Response

⁹But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" . . . ²¹And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garment of skins and clothed them. GENESIS 3:9,21

(Read also **1 JOHN 2:1,2.**)

God sought Adam in spite of his disobedience and gave him a chance to repent. However, Adam did not admit to his disobedience and even blamed Eve for the sin he had also committed. They tried to cover their sin with fig leaves, a temporary solution; God clothed Adam and Eve with animal skin, thus making the first sacrifice for sin (Genesis 3:21). But God desires for all of mankind to be forgiven and reconciled to Him, which is why He sent Jesus Christ to be the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world once for all (1 John 2:1,2). How did the way you live change knowing that your sins are forgiven through Christ's sacrifice?

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APPLICATION

- Do you believe that you still have to cover up your sins the way Adam and Eve did? Do you believe that God sent Jesus to be the sacrifice for your sins? How can you trust in the finished work of Christ on the cross?
- God shows us grace and mercy in spite of what we do. How does knowing this help you to grow deeper in your relationship with God?
- Do you still have friends and family members who need to hear about the saving grace of Jesus? Commit to share to them the story of God's redeeming love and power this week.

