



10/31/25

On this week's Chosen and Cherished podcast, we talked about how Jesus modeled for us a faith that stands firm, with no compromise. I'm so thankful He came to rescue us AND to teach us how to be unmovable in our faith. If you'd like to listen to the episode, here's the link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Genesis 3:14-21

Who is responsible when I sin? Adam tried to blame Eve and God. He was the poster child of Proverbs 19:3, "When a man's folly brings his way to ruin, his heart rages against the Lord." Eve wanted to blame the serpent. God says we are all responsible for our own actions. Even when someone else does something against me, I am still responsible for my actions.

It makes sense. When my kids were growing up, if one of them treated the other badly, and the other retaliated... BOTH were disciplined... each according to their own actions. It makes total sense when I think of it with kids... but it's a little harder to see when I get wronged as an adult. And yet, it doesn't change the truth. My Father in heaven holds me responsible for my actions. He never says, "How dare that person wrong you. You SHOULD fight back! You are justified to sin against them."

Well... Adam and Eve tried to blame, but the serpent, that devil, didn't stay silent because he got what he wanted. He knew exactly what he was doing, he knew exactly who God is, and he didn't care about the consequences. He had already been cast out of heaven for his pride.

What were the consequences of their actions?

"The LORD GOD... Yahweh Elohim... the one with all power and authority... said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise

your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

I have no idea what the serpent looked like before that moment. Maybe he was beautiful. Maybe Eve was drawn to him, not just because of his words but because of his appearance. But that all changed. Now he became cursed above all animals. I know from Revelation 12:9 and 20:2 that the serpent is the devil himself. Ezekiel 28:17 says of him, "Your heart was proud because of your beauty. You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground..." Literally.

Vs. 15 is the first offering of the hope of redemption God gave. Throughout the years He followed that hope up with hundreds of prophecies about the Messiah, Jesus Christ. But this was the first. I think it's such a beautiful picture of God's heart that when man rebels against Him, the first thing He does is offer hope.

He said, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." Does this just mean women will hate snakes? No. Although most do. It means the Messiah would come through the woman. And though the serpent would bruise His heel... a wound that would not last... Jesus would bruise or CRUSH his head... a mortal wound with no chance of recovery.

Then the LORD GOD spoke to the woman. "Having babies is gonna be REALLY painful for you." Well... that's definitely true. Does God's word stand? Absolutely. He gave that curse thousands of years ago. It's still true today. No amount of an epidural makes childbearing easy... not to mention the 9 months of pain and nausea and fatigue before the baby is born.

But there's more. Not only would the woman (and all women after her) have pain in childbearing, but... some translations say, "Your desire will be FOR your husband." And others say, "Your longing will be to control your husband." That kind of sounds like opposite meanings? Which is it? I think it's both. In general, women want to be in a loving, emotionally attached relationship with a man... but they want to define what that should look like. I have talked to quite a few women who expect their husbands to live up to certain standards, while not looking at their own hearts. I know I've been guilty of that.

The second half of God's statement to Eve is that her husband would rule over her. That does not mean her husband would be superior to her in value, but he would be in charge. I am the first to admit that I saw submission as a definite curse rather than God's protection. But even God's punishment would prove to also be His protection. Yes, God placed the husband as head... but Ephesians 5 tells me that He placed huge responsibility on the husband for how he leads. He is to lead as Christ loved the church.

What did the LORD GOD say to Adam? "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face

you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Because you listened to the voice of your wife rather than the voice of the Lord... It is NEVER good to listen to the voice of anyone over the voice of God. Who can make the biggest noise? The one who is closest to you. I don't know what Adam was thinking when he ate the fruit because he was NOT deceived. He knew exactly what he was doing. But I do know he chose to ignore God. That never goes well.

As a woman, rather than judging my husband on how well he's leading me, I need to be seeking the Lord to help me to be a better "helper suitable for him" ... to support my husband... to entrust my soul to the Father.

Adam's curse was not that he would have to work. Work was a gift from God from the beginning. The curse was that work would now be much harder. The ground was basically cursed as a result of his rebellion against God. The pain he experienced would be, not the pain of childbearing like his wife, but the birth pangs of the whole creation "which was subjected to futility" because of Adam's disobedience. Sin always affects more than the one who commits it. "Cursed is the ground because of you." You're gonna have to sweat and work hard for your food. It will be a distraction and a grind.

As I look at the command from Ephesians 5:33, I see that God's plan is to be united in relationship not only with Him, but also between the husband and wife. The wife is called to respect her husband. You know what can't coexist with respect? Trying to control someone. The husband is called to love His wife as Jesus loves us. You know what really makes that hard? Being distracted by all the stuff he has to get done while his work is a grind. God blesses us as we entrust ourselves to Him and He helps us to overcome the curse.

The man... who would rule over his wife... gave her a name... Eve. Her name means "mother of all living." And the LORD GOD made clothes from the skins of animals for Adam and Eve... the first time death occurred... to cover the man and the woman... as someday Jesus would be the sacrifice that covered our sin so that we could be clothed in His righteousness.

Then the LORD GOD said, "Check it out. They ate from the tree, and now they know good and evil. If they eat from the tree of life, they will be stuck in this perpetual state of spiritual death forever." Therefore... to protect Adam and Eve from this eternal fate, the LORD GOD sent them out of the Garden of Eden. He put cherubim and a flaming sword that turned in every direction at the east of the garden so that they could not enter. God's punishment for them was also His protection for them.

They were sent east of Eden. They had to build a life away from the garden, working the ground. But as I will find when I read on, God never abandoned them. He gave them hope the minute they rebelled against Him. He protected them even in the consequences they had to face. He spoke truth to them. He loved them. And He does the same for me. O Lord, please help me to choose to listen to Your voice, to follow Your plan, to fulfill Your purpose. You are worthy.