

December 3, 2017

“A Descendant of Eve”
Genesis 3:15

FCF: Discouragement at Christmas

PROPOSITION: (magnet) Because God has sent a descendant of Eve,
(anchor) we should take heart.

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION:

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year. It’s the happiest season of all.” But not always. The realization you can’t get that gift you’ve had your eyes on. That could be a child thinking of themselves. Or a parent thinking of that child. It’s unavailable. Or unaffordable. But perhaps it goes beyond possessions. Thinking back to how things were a year ago, you realize nothing’s changed. Or too much has changed. Either way, things may not be so wonderful or happy.

When such thoughts come and take control, the reminder of the reason for the season needs to come and take its rightful place. Which then takes us back to the beginning of things.

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 3:1-15

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON INTRODUCTION:

“This holiday season, show her how special she really is.” Great ad campaign. Not because jewelry is the answer but because it taps into a truism. Private promises of devotion aren’t enough. Cheap declarations don’t convey commitment. It takes careful planning. The man needs to woo her. He needs to declare his love and convince her of her need for him.

That’s exactly what God has done with us. The Scriptures are an unfolding proposal, the progressive revelation of the wooing of the people of God with the love of God. Which meant that, when Jesus arrived in the little town of Bethlehem, the way had been well prepared over the course of centuries. For God is the wise suitor. And we see that from the very beginning.

Genesis 3 provides the explanation as to how things got from the paradise of Genesis 2 to the aching brokenness in which we find ourselves today. But not just an explanation. It’s a declaration, a promise. Right from the start, God promised that, to fix the predicament of the world, He would send a descendant of Eve. In Jesus, that descendant has come. And in embracing both that reality and its significance, we must and can take heart. Especially as we consider these two simple points - what God promised to do and how He promised to do it.

I. WHAT GOD IS GOING TO DO

Think with me. Consider what it is God says He is going to do (**READ Genesis 3:15**).

A) A Declaration of War

This is the first announcement of the gospel. And it begins with a declaration of war.

1. What it means

A curse was declared upon Satan. And that curse is our comfort. “Enmity” has been established - hatred, hostility, a battle. With no room for a truce. For peace to come, there had to be war.

2. Why it’s needed

Why? Because mankind had treacherously and foolishly aligned with the enemy and his lies.

Illustration:

Imagine a teenage girl trapped in a relationship with an older man with less than noble intentions. And the girl is not able to disentangle herself. She needs someone coming in from the outside to pull her away and create some distance between the two. That's what we see here.

B) A Determination of Victory

This curse is our comfort. From the very beginning, we see enmity, a declaration of war. And then a determination of victory as well. We're not left to wonder or to guess the outcome.

1. Relentless struggle

A relentless struggle ensues. Two lines develop - Cain and Abel, Pharaoh and Israel. Fast forward to Herod's slaughter of the infants, to Jesus' betrayal, trial, and execution. The struggle.

2. Outcome assured

With the outcome assured (**READ Genesis 3:15**). The enemy's head bruised, crushed – a permanent fatal injury. A hero's heel bruised – a real but temporary injury – fatal but not final.

We have every reason to take heart. Look at what God has promised to do.

Application:

We live in a cosmic war zone. That needs to be brought to bear in two ways. First, in choosing our sides. There are but two. So there is a decision before us. A choosing of sides.

And then, a facing of wounds. His wounds are the answer to our own. What has stolen your hopes? What betrayals have you endured? What struggles rage within you? My friend, when you hear the carols this year, listen to their message and know there is a change in the air.

God has sent a descendant of Eve – just as He said He would. And so we can take heart.

II. HOW HE IS GOING TO DO IT

But the encouragement is not just the fact of what God is going to do. It is also the way He is going to do it. Put another way, it is both by His sovereign power and sovereign grace.

A) Through Eve

What is the means by which the Savior will come? It's very clear. Through Eve.

1. An individual

(**READ Genesis 3:15**) "Offspring" is an ambiguous term. On the one hand, it would seem a line of descendants is being referred to here. But clearly God has one particular descendant in mind.

2. A man

A man, clearly different from any other. Clearly different in the power He will have and the work He will do but still very much like us. He has to be. After all, He will be Eve's offspring.

B) Despite Eve

So Jesus came through Eve. But it's not only that. He came despite her as well.

1. Despite what she'd done

Think with me here. Despite what she'd done. Despite listening to the serpent, taking him at his word. Despite spurning her Creator and the love lavished out upon her, spurning His Word.

2. Despite what she'd shown

Despite what she'd done. And despite what she'd shown – distrust and weakness in temptation. And worse, from there on out, a bentness, a crookedness, a brokenness rooted down deep.

3. Despite what she'd brought

Despite what she'd done, despite what she'd shown, and despite what she'd brought. Now more precisely, the ruin that fell on mankind and creation was through Adam's failure here. It was on him. But, in that terrible moment, his temptation came through her. Think of the burden.

And yet, despite all that, God promised that the Savior would come through Eve.

Illustration:

When Thomas Edison and his staff were developing the incandescent light bulb, it took twenty-four hours to manufacture a single bulb. One day, he handed a new bulb to a young errand boy and asked him to take it upstairs to the testing room. As the boy turned and started up the stairs, he stumbled and fell, and the bulb shattered on the steps. Edison's response? Instead of rebuking the boy, he reassured him and told his staff to start working on another bulb.

When it was completed a day later, Edison demonstrated the reality of his forgiveness in the most powerful way possible. He walked over to that same errand boy, handed him the bulb, and said, "Take this up to the testing room." Imagine. And this is how God responds to us.

Application:

Nothing has changed here. God loves us enough to restore us. And He loves us enough to use us, to work through us, in the process. Despite all we've done, despite all we've left undone. Despite all we are, despite all we're not. You and I have not been shunted aside.

You think you've blown it? At least you didn't take creation and the whole human race down into sin and misery and necessitate the coming of the Savior! This is God's amazing grace. He delights to do it this way. It resonates all the grander to His glory. So take heart!

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CONCLUSION:

He loves us enough to restore us. And He loves us enough to work through us. It's little wonder we sing so much this time of year. We should. For we've got so much to sing about!

Let me tell you of Isaac Watts. One day, as an 18-year-old, he complained to his father of what passed as the hymns of his day. His father's response? ([READ quotes](#))

"Those hymns were good enough for your grandfather and your father, son, so they will have to be good enough for you."

Isaac replied, *"They will never do for me, father, regardless of what you and your father thought of them."*

"If you don't like the hymns we sing, then write better ones!"

"I have written better ones, father, and if you will relax and listen, I will read one for you."

Well, it was so good, the church sang it the next Sunday. And that went so well, they asked him to do it again - which he gladly did, for the next 222 weeks. And out of that eventually came a song based on Psalm 98. Perhaps you've heard of it - "Joy to the World" ([READ quote](#)):

*He rules the world with truth and grace. And makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love.*

The wonders of His love. How we need that. And how we need to hear that. Our God is the wise suitor. Hear the declaration of His love. Yes, His heel was bruised but the serpent's head has been crushed! Take to heart these simple but profound and comforting realities – the glorious fact He is restoring us and the wondrous way He is restoring us as well. Take heart.

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