

Scripture Reference: Genesis 3:8-13

Date: October 14, 2012

Title: "To Whom Do You Listen?"

Focus: Hearing God speak, as He intended it to be.

Intro:

1. The Bible reveals the willingness of God to speak and the capability of man to converse with Him. Also seen is the variety of ways He has spoken, though today it is through the life and ministry of Jesus He predominately speaks.

2. Genesis 3 is the first opportunity to see man and God in actual communication. It shows the intent of what communication with God was meant to be and the height from which it has fallen.

Body:

"They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day"

- A garden stroll and the creator enjoying His creation. These are the images that surround the first recorded conversation between God and man.

- However, this is not how most think of talking with God to be.

- The fall shapes our perception of conversing with God, not understanding it as God wishes it to be.

- For many, prayer is experienced as a depersonalized struggle to find God or an attempt to alter personal circumstances.

- It was the intent of God that communication between Him and Adam be a normal occurrence in the regular course of the day.

"The man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden."

- Rather than having the opportunity for God to speak and man to hear, for man to speak and for God to hear, sin corrupted this time and placed a barrier to communication with God.

- This barrier is seen in Adam and Eve fleeing from God's presence. When man needs to hear from God the most, it is often the last thing he wants to do.

- The barrier is also seen in Adam and Eve hiding among God's creation. Paul described this barrier this way,

Romans 1:23 Man has *"exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures."*

- Instead of finding solace in God, it is sought in His creation (fame, power, money, family, friends, accomplishments, etc.).

"The man said, 'The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.'"

- Rather than listen to God, Adam chose to listen to someone else, his wife.

- Anytime another's voice matters more than that of God's, trouble ensues.

- How can one tell the voice that matters most? It is the one that is listened to. (Matt. 6:24 / Luke 16:13)

“The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’”

- Whereas Adam listened to Eve rather than God, Eve heeded the voice of Satan.

- Why would she do such a thing? It was two against one, Eve’s reason and Satan’s lies versus God.

- The majority is not always right. All it means is that more people want something than don’t.

- Reason isn’t right and man is far from infallible. (Proverbs 14:12)

Closing:

1. Despite man’s actions and the obstacles to Him, God continues to call out.

2. The practice of solitude places a person in the position to learn to recognize and value God’s voice above all others.