

MESSAGE NOTES

God's Questions The Conversation

Genesis 3:1-9 (NIV)

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

⁴ "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

NOTES:

Call and Response

We are all born into a conversation that began long before we arrived.

"God spoke: 'Light!' And light appeared." Genesis 1:3 (MSG)

Creation begins as a call and response: God speaks, and creation answers. God says, "Light," and light responds by shining. God calls for the sky, land, seas, plants, stars, creatures, and humanity—and each answers the voice that called it into being.

Creation's Response

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge." Psalms 19:1-2

Shame

Brené Brown in her book *Daring Greatly*, defines shame as the intensely painful feeling or experience of believing that we are flawed and therefore unworthy of love, belonging, and connection. Shame is a deeply social emotion that often causes people to withdraw from others and disengage from meaningful relationships. It thrives in environments of secrecy, silence, and judgment, making it difficult for people to seek help or share their struggles.

Brown distinguishes shame from guilt by noting that guilt says, "I did something bad," while shame says, "I am bad." Guilt focuses on behavior and can motivate change, whereas shame attacks a person's identity and sense of worth.

"Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame." Psalm 34:5

Listening

"Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely."
Psalm 139:4

"The first service that one owes to others in the fellowship consists in listening to them. Just as love for God begins with listening to His Word, so the beginning of love for the brethren is learning to listen to them. It is God's love for us that He not only gives us His Word but also lends us His ear." *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*