

Genesis 3 is referred to as "the Fall." It is the turning point for all of human history, and the lens through which all Scripture must be read from this point forward. Before the events in this chapter humanity is walking with God in harmony and fellowship. After this chapter the human relationship with God is separated and sin corrupts and captivates all of creation.

Even after man sins against God, God is still good and merciful. The Lord could have simply wiped humanity from existence and been done with us all together. Yet, He does not desire the eternal death of even one person, so He provides redemption. Though we lament our pain and the futility of our daily tasks, it is these very things that remind us that this world is broken and beyond our control. As you continue to read Genesis 3, remember that sin changes everything except God. Every action of humanity from this point forward must be viewed through the light of our sinfulness. Yet God will prove time and time again that He will pursue us, that His blessings are unmerited, and that even His discipline has grace and mercy within it.

- 1 A hallmark of Lutheran theology is the teaching that all of Scripture is rightly divided into Law and Gospel. What do we mean by Law? What do we mean by Gospel? And what are examples of both in Genesis 3?
- 2 The disobedience of Adam and Eve is known as the cause of "Original Sin". Original Sin is the corrupted heart of all people for all time (until our final restoration, that is!). How is original sin different from the ordinary, everyday sinful choices and sinful behaviors we manifest in life?

Original Sin—

Actual Sin—

Sins of Omission — Sins of Comission —

## 1 JOHN 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

## **PSALM 51:5**

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

## **ROMANS 7:18**

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

## Reed Genesis 3:20-26 & 4:1

- 3 Is the Lord's act of making clothes for Adam and Eve an act of Law or Gospel? If Gospel, how can we specifically read Jesus Christ into the text?
- 4 Why are Adam and Eve no longer allowed to live in the Garden of Eden? Why can they not continue to eat from the Tree of Life?
- **5** As Adam and Eve now make their way into the world—a creation cursed by God and filled with toil and trouble—they do so, living with the same hope and faith as "Christians?" In 4:1, notice Eve's excitement at giving birth to Cain. What hope and faith might she be expressing?