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Lent Day 1: The Dust

3 minutes

Genesis 3:14-19 (ESV)

*The Lord God 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.”*

*To the woman he said,
I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.*

*Your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.”*

*And to Adam he said,
“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.'*

When we come to Genesis 3, we encounter a God who curses! He responds to Adam and Eve's disobedience and the serpent's treachery decisively. With the pronouncement of each curse and judgment, there is an undoing or reversal of God's gracious creative works. Adam, who was created from the dust, is now destined to return back to it. Eve, who was created out of Adam, has now become dominated by him. The serpent, who was more crafty than any of the wild animals, is now humiliated, groveling on its belly, eating dust. In this chapter we see that sin has affected all of creation.

This text speaks to our desire to overlook our sins. God does not respond lightly to sin. Death entered the world with sin, and all manner of sorrow, suffering and despair. But the worst of the curse would fall upon a different man many millennia later as Paul said in Galatians 3:13, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us — for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.'" Jesus would take upon himself a curse in order to redeem humanity's status.

Prayer

Dear Father, I know you cannot take lightly the sins that I commit because you are a God of holiness who loves justice and does not allow evil to go unpunished. But I thank you for your wisdom and mercy in devising a plan that would allow the curse that was rightfully mine to fall upon your Son. In Christ's Name, Amen.

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