

Genesis 3:1-15

St. John's, 2000

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Fishing is a sport that young and old, rich or poor, male or female can enjoy. It is a sport that can be relaxing and exciting at the same time. Stories that people tell about the fish they caught or the one that got away are sometimes very funny.

Nancy and I went camping in the mountains of the San Carlos Reservation with some friends for a week in July. On one of those days Bruce and I went fishing in one of the small lakes nearby. We parked the truck and walked to the lake. We got ready to fish. But we heard a bear grumbling about our being there. We decided to go back to the truck. As we were walking up the trail, we heard the bear walking along side of us in the brush. We were happy to reach the truck and get safely inside.

I know that some of you like to fish and I am sure you have some good stories to tell. Thoughts of fishing reminded me of a fishing trip of a more serious nature. Let's talk about

The Day Satan Went Fishing.

We will talk about the fisherman, the fish he caught, the bait he used, and the one that got away.

The fisherman on that horrible fishing trip was Satan. Like the rest of the angels, Satan had been created perfect and holy, willing to serve both God and human beings.

But Satan led a rebellion against God. Why? We don't know. Why Satan thought he had a chance to destroy God, I'll never know! During the battle that followed, Satan and the other evil angels were thrown out of heaven.

Then Satan went fishing, and the sad story is recorded in our text.

What was Satan fishing for? Human beings. In order to hide his evilness, Satan used the snake to seek out our first parents, Adam and Eve.

Why did Satan seek to mislead human beings? They were the most important part of God's creation. Adam and Eve were holy and sinless; they were different from animals because they had souls could speak

and reason. Satan looked for Adam and Eve because they loved God, God loved them and Satan hates those whom God loves!

So Satan came seeking Adam and Eve to catch them, to bring sin and misery into the world, and to destroy them.

God had prepared Adam and Eve for this day. They were sinless, they were perfect, they had the spiritual strength to resist Satan's temptations. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve were careless and they fell hook, line, and sinker.

- Satan: Did God say that you can't eat from all the trees in Eden?
- Eve: We can't eat from one tree. If we do, we will die.
- Satan: You won't die! God is keeping a secret from you. You don't need God. Do what you want, not what God wants!

Moses records the horrifying result: 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, and he ate it. Eve did not take God's Word seriously. She doubted God's love and His goodness. Eve ate and gave some fruit to Adam and he ate.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God! They were hooked on the line Satan had dangled in front of them. They began to act like sinners with years of experience behind them. When God asked Adam and Eve what they had done Adam said, The woman you gave to be with me – she gave me fruit...and I ate it. Eve said, The serpent deceived me, and I ate.

The devil works the same way to this day. He gets us to doubt the promises of God and then he drags us away from Word and Sacrament so that we do what we want, get into trouble, and eventually end up hooked on sin!

Because of Adam and Eve's sin, we are sinful, too. Paul wrote, Just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin...in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.

So far we have seen that Satan went fishing one day and caught human beings on the hook of sin. Did you ever wonder what bait he used? Let's see.... Satan asked Eve, Did God really say you can't eat from every tree in the garden? In the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve could eat the fruit of any tree except for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Satan questioned the goodness of God and the word and promises of God. When Eve and Adam's trust in God wavers, they have fallen into sin!

Satan attacks us every day, with this same question hoping that we will sin. **Did God really say...**"gay" marriage is wrong...a Dennis can't become a Denise...you can't have sex before marriage...you can't party till you're drunk...you can't watch porn. Unfortunately, there are times when we end up just like Adam and Eve and get "hooked" on sin.

Eve should have known that something was wrong. She was holy, without sin. A snake was speaking against God and His Word! Eve should have known better! Adam should have known better!

God had told Adam and Eve that if they ate from the forbidden tree that they would die. Did you hear what Satan said? You won't die! What a liar! Satan still tempts us in the same way. He whispers in our ears that God is unfair and that God doesn't want us to have any fun in this life. Satan is always a liar!

The poison of Satan's lie had done its work. Eve looked at the fruit of the forbidden tree and had to have a bite! The Hebrew word means that Eve lusted after the fruit. Eve ate. Adam came. Eve gave him fruit. Adam ate. Sin was in the world!

What was the bait that Satan dangled in front of Adam and Eve? The same bait that Satan uses to catch us: greed, dissatisfaction, and lack of trust in God. We haven't gotten any wiser, have we?

The fall of Adam and Eve into sin is a horrible fishing story, but there is good news! There was one that got away!

God pronounced judgment on Adam and Eve, the snake and Satan. Eve and women would suffer pain in child birth. They would also be subject to their husbands. Adam and men would have to work hard to support their families; and human beings would die because of sin. The snake became a hated creature. And God said to Satan, I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush His heel.

These words are the first gospel message. There would be a battle between Satan and a descendant of Eve. This future descendant of Eve

would crush Satan's head while Satan would crush His heel.

This is the first promise of the Savior, who on Calvary was struck by Satan, but who on Easter crushed Satan by His resurrection from the dead. Paul later wrote, As in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

Jesus is the One who got away. Satan tried, but could never tempt Jesus to fall into sin. It is because Jesus was our perfect Savior that we gather here today, thank and praise our Savior, and know that we will be with our Lord forever.

One day, long ago, Satan went fishing. The bait Satan used hooked Adam and Eve and sin now lives in us. Isn't it great that Jesus got away and that because of Him we are forgiven and will live with Jesus forever?

Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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