

## In Step with Jesus 197

May 3, 2026

**Key Text: For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” (Romans 10:11)**

### Introduction

Today we will start reading Genesis chapter three, but before we do, let us recap the key lessons we have learnt in Genesis chapters one and two. Genesis chapters one and two clearly tell us who we are, where we came from, and the purpose of our existence. From those two chapters we know that a powerful, orderly, purposeful, and temperate God who is full of love and benevolence, created us. He created us as caretakers or managers of the earth, to ensure its continuity and sustainability. Genesis one and two also tell us that God provides all we need to accomplish the purpose for which He created us. In the garden of Eden, He provided good environment, food and human love and companionship. God also set boundaries and gave laws to protect His beautiful creation. He specifically instructed Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Obedience to that instruction would demonstrate their trust in God and secured the trust and obedience of all other created things towards them. Disobedience would not only introduce sin and death into the world but would also cause them to lose the trust of each other as well as the trust of all other created things. Genesis chapter three reveals how sin came into the world through disobedience as well as the consequences of that disobedience. Let us read verses one to fifteen and see what we can learn about the result of disobedience.

### Genesis 3: 1-15

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” 4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and

I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” 11 He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” 12 The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” 14 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. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring[e] and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

## **REFLECTIONS**

According to the text we read, the serpent deceived Eve, she disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit and also gave the fruit to Adam, who accepted and ate with no apparent resistance or argument. Thus, sin came into the world, and with sin, came shame, separation from God and damaged relationships. Our world, as we know it today, is different from what it used to be before sin. Sin changed our world in a negative way, but the goodness is that God did not abandon humanity to face the consequences of sin alone.

Before sin, Adam and Eve could understand the language of animals. Eve could understand the serpent. Although bible scholars believe, with evidence, that the serpent in our reading represents Satan, the text clearly indicates that there was a literal serpent in that garden, who was craftier than all the other beasts of the field. The serpent spoke to Eve and Eve could understand. Sin did not just change humanity’s relationship with the serpent; it changed our relationship with all animals. We can no longer fully understand their language. God created animals to have a relationship with us; to communicate, trust and obey us but sin separated us from them. Before sin, Adam and Eve were naked and were not ashamed. In other words, they were completely open and vulnerable before each other and they were not ashamed. But as soon as they ate the fruit, their eyes were opened and they knew that they were naked and they sewed fig leaves to cover themselves. They felt the need to protect themselves from each other and when God came visiting in the garden, they both ran and hid from Him. Although sin in itself was a demonstration of lack of trust in God, it brought deeper fear, shame, and mistrust. Instead of embracing God as their Father and friend when He came visiting, they ran away.

Humanity continues to r. from a loving God today. Not because there is something wrong with God but because we are naked and ashamed before the holy God. Just as it was in the garden of Eden, Satan’s ultimate agenda remains to destroy our relationships. He wants to separate us from God, isolate us from one another, drive us into despondency, and then kill us or get us to destroy ourselves. But as God came searching for Adam and Eve, He continues to search for us. When we hear His voice calling, let us answer and return home to our Father’s love.