**Genesis 3:1-7**

Introduction

I. Genesis 3 reflects the ache in every human heart that life is not the way it’s supposed to be

II. The Bible speaks the truth about reality

A. That life is both beautiful/full of meaning but also painful/tragic

B. That we humans are both beautiful/magnificent but also broken/twisted

C. No other worldview captures that better

The Passage

I. Introducing the serpent

A. Who he is

=Satan, one of God’s fallen angels, who has taken possession of a snake

B. What his strategy is

1. “Devil” = slanderer, accuser

2. He accuses God in their hearts and plants seeds of doubt and dissatisfaction

II. Creating dissatisfaction with God’s provision (v. 1-2)

A. He starts by simply asking a question

B. He gets them to focus on the one thing they can’t have

C. Even though God has provided generously for all of their needs, he plants a seed of dissatisfaction

D. He then starts to imply things about God (maybe God is a stingy God who likes to withhold good things from his creatures)

E. From Gratitude to Dissatisfaction

III. Creating distrust in God’s character (v. 4-5)

A. Every one of his statements is a half truth

B. He implies that God wants to keep certain privileges to himself and doesn’t want any rivals and wants to keep them in their place. God doesn’t want them to have life to the fullest, but wants to keep that from them.

C. From Trust to Distrust

D. Notice how Satan refers to God

1. He only calls him “God” (v. 1,5)

2. Genesis 1 uses only “God” (Elohim): the generic word for the Creator that reflects his power and sovereign transcendence

3. Genesis 2 uses only “LORD God” (Yahweh Elohim): Yahweh is the personal covenantal name of God that reflects his loving personal concern and faithfulness to his people

3. Satan wants them only to think of God as Elohim (that huge being up there) but not as Yahweh (the one who loves them and cares for them personally)

IV. Adam and Eve become dissatisfied with God’s provision and distrustful of his character and love for them, and that creates an insecurity and neediness. They then react out of that and try to take control of their own lives.

V. This is our story today

A. Some of us have deep doubts about God’s character and heart for us

1. “God is constantly disappointed with me”

2. “God’s approval is something that I need to earn”

3. “God isn’t interested in me. He’s got more important things to do”

4. “God has all these rules that will take away my freedom and fun  
B. Some of us become easily dissatisfied with God’s provision. We know he loves us, but that’s just not enough for us.

1. Dissatisfied with his material provision

2. Dissatisfied with the spiritual growth and fruit he’s producing in our own lives

C. In our distrust and dissatisfaction, we become needy for other things

Ex: I need people to love me, to respect me, to agree with me, I need to prove myself to my parents, I need my parents to behave perfectly, etc.

D. “Sin is what you do when your heart is not satisfied with God.” – John Piper

E. Our neediness comes out through sin (Yelling at the kid’s soccer game, jumping from relationship to relationship, going to addictions, etc.)

VI. How do we fight this spiritual battle

A. By getting our hearts satisfied in God

B. Practice gratitude (gratitude journal, morning and evening thanks, etc.)

C. Regularly focus on the goodness and faithfulness of God (see Romans 8:31-39)

**Discussion Questions**

1. Genesis 3 is obviously a very familiar story. Was there anything new brought up on Sunday that you hadn’t considered before, or was there a dynamic in the story that you came to appreciate in a new way?

2. On Sunday we discussed Satan’s strategy of getting us dissatisfied with God’s provision by focusing on what we don’t have. Where in your own life do you see that strategy playing out? What does it look like specifically?

3. We also discussed Satan’s strategy of getting us distrustful of God’s character and good heart towards us. Where in your own life do you see that strategy playing out? What does it look like specifically?

4. “Sin is what you do when your heart is not satisfied in God.” How does that quote resonate with you? Does that seem true to experience?

5. The great antidote to Satan’s strategies is to live lives of gratitude and trust in God’s faithfulness. What are some concrete and practical ways you want to practice gratitude and trust?