

Marriage – East of Eden **The Fall and its Consequences** Genesis 3

“When a young couple gets together and the young woman sees in the man the answer to all her needs, and the man sees in the woman the answer to all his needs, and they go into the marriage thinking that the other one is going to fulfill all their needs, rather than going into the marriage self-sacrificially in a spirit of self-denial, determining to serve the other, the very expectations in marriage often times cause a marriage to collapse.” (Ligon Duncan)

1. Review: God's Purpose and Ideal in Marriage

- a. Companionship – not good to be alone
- b. Complement – a suitable helper
- c. Completely transparent – naked and unashamed
- d. Complete – one flesh
- e. Coregents – over creation, bearing the image of God

2. Rebellion and Disobedience in the Fall and its Consequences

- a. Eyes opened to guilt (actual) and subsequent shame (sensed)
- b. Desire to hide from God
- c. Casting blame

3. The Curse and Implications for Marriage

- a. Multiplied pain in childbirth for the woman
- b. Painful toil for the man
- c. “Desire” for the husband and “rule” over the wife

4. Redemption, Reconciliation, Forgiveness

- a. The sacrifice and covering of shame and guilt
- b. The Hope in the Promise

Assignment: *Conduct a personal inventory of the ways that the fall and subsequent inherited sinfulness manifest themselves in you as husband or wife. If able, confess and discuss them with your spouse. For the spouse, examine yourself to see if you are able to forgive as God has forgiven you in Christ. Affirm that forgiveness with each other.*