

**“THE FIRST FAILURES –
THE LEGACY OF ADAM AND EVE”
(Genesis 3)**

INTRO: *H. Hendricks* writes, “Failure is one of the uglies of life...” Adam and Eve were not only the first persons, they were the first failures. Their legacy to the human race was failure. What life lessons can we learn from these first failures?

I. TWO FAMOUS PEOPLE

- A. Their *FIRSTS* – First man, woman, marriage (made in heaven, didn’t have to wonder if married the right one), couple, parents, and first failures. First to sin!
- B. Their *ADVANTAGES* – created perfect by direct act of God, no physical or moral defects, clean minds and pure hearts, no heredity to blame, (didn’t live in abusive home with bad parents), direct communication with God daily, a perfect environment to live in (God met their every need), productive work (2:15), etc.
- C. *THEIR FAILURE* – With every imaginable advantage, and virtually all the cards stacked their way, they had it all, but blew it.

II. ONE FRIGHTENING FAILURE (Gen. 3:1-7)

They could’ve gone down in history as heroes, but remembered most for a gigantic mistake – that opened the door for every failure imaginable.

- A. *A CLEAR COMMAND* (2:15-17) – Adam was given a specific command with a serious consequence. Though created in a state of innocence, they had the power of choice. God wanted persons, not puppets. They were free to love God or not to love God. They had it all. All they had to do was obey God to keep it.
- B. *A COLOSSAL COLLAPSE* (3:1-7) – Their failure was at least 3-fold:
 - 1. *Doubted God’s Word* authorship, accuracy, and authority (vv.1-4). Satan cast doubt, “Did God *really* say...?” (v.1b). You must have heard it wrong. She learned it from Adam (did he soften it?). Finally, full denial (v.4) – not die!
 - 2. *Distrusted God’s character* (v. 5). Satan suggested God was not only a liar (v.4), but jealous and held them back. Distrusted His integrity, goodness, & motives.
 - 3. *Disobeyed God’s will*. She followed her desires and disobeyed. She was deceived. Adam just willfully disobeyed. 1 Tim. 2:13-14.

Illus. – H. Morris writes...

III. SOME FORCEFUL LIFE LESSONS

- A. *Though environment (circumstances) contributes to failure, it alone is never the cause of it.* Failure is all about personal choice. Happens again in M.K. (Rev. 20:7-9) They failed in a perfect place.
- B. *Knowing God’s Word (2:16-17) is no guarantee we won’t fall into sin, but obedience is.* Eve chose self-satisfaction over obedience. She ignored what was right for what was appealing. She let the Deceiver do her thinking! Adam chose love for his wife over loyalty to God. Knowledge is not equal to obedience.
- C. *Satan wants us to think we can sin and get away with it* (v. 4). The enemy wants us to believe there are no consequences for our sins. Look at some of the consequences (vv.7, 8, 10, 11-13, 14, 16-19, 22-24).
- D. *Our failures and sins are never hidden from God.* We can try to run and hide or to shift the blame. Tend to blame everyone else for our failures (dysfunctional homes, diseases, etc.). Man makes excuses to avoid God’s presence. Sin drives a wedge. Be reasonable.
- E. *Our failures often impact others.* Our choices tend to influence others. Their children, Cain & Abel, were impacted. The entire human race was affected (Rom. 5:12). Sin always reaches out.
- F. *True wisdom is never attained by disobeying God’s Word* (v.5). Instead, Pro. 1:7; 2:1-6... Fear & Obey God.

IV. A FORGIVING GOD (Gen. 3:8-9, 15, 20-24)

- A. *GOD CAME TO THEM AND CALLED* (vv.8-9) – He was pursuer and initiator. He was looking for them. He wants us to see where we are. He still calls in many ways. Hound of heaven (Psa. 139).
- B. *HE CONQUERS* (v.15) – Failure doesn’t have to be final because of Christ. There is hope. Salvation was designed for people who fail. The fact that they felt ashamed showed there was hope for them. They confessed their sins (v.20). E. Lutzer . . .
- C. (3:21) *HE PROVIDED COVERING* – A miniature picture of whole plan of redemption – requires a blood substitute. Only way to get garments of skin was for an innocent victim to die. Wonder what they thought as saw death for the first time? Our coverings will not work (v.7). We can never escape God’s eye of judgement by anything we make or do. Adam gave us sin but Jesus...

CONC: Failure still doesn’t have to be final. God still comes, calls, and covers. Though we inherited a sinful nature from these first failures, we have also been blessed with their sources of supply: presence of God and power of choice concerning how to use what we have. We must confess. Satan knows if he can get us preoccupied with our failures, then growth is delayed. 1 Jn. 1:9; Pro. 24:16a; and Psa. 37:23-24...