

**Behind the Fig Leaf**  
***Why is Everything Such a Mess?***  
**July 26, 2009**

**Genesis 3:14-19**

<sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel."

<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said,  
"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;  
in pain you shall bring forth children.  
Your desire shall be for your husband,  
and he shall rule over you."

<sup>17</sup> And to Adam he said,  
"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife  
and have eaten of the tree  
of which I commanded you,  
'You shall not eat of it,'  
cursed is the ground because of you;  
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

<sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;  
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

<sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face  
you shall eat bread,  
till you return to the ground,  
for out of it you were taken;  
for you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return."

## Discussion Questions

Can you think of a time where one mistake led to more and more problems that you never expected?

How large can one mistake snowball?

What punishment do you think Adam and Eve were expecting for eating the fruit?

What is the first 'surprising' aspect of God's reaction?

What does it tell us about God?

Looking at the curses, what does each one tell us about why the world the way it is? with the serpent?...Eve?...Adam?

What is the overall effect of Adam and Eve's disobedience on the world?

How does Adam and Eve's disobedience relate to us?

What effect does our disobedience (sin) have on our world?

How are we supposed to live in a world filled with the consequences of sin?

Are we always delivered from the consequences?

Are we simply to accept the consequences?

What is the Gospel's answer to the curses of Genesis?