Genesis 3

ALL THE DEVIL' S APPLES HAVE WORMS

Text: Genesis 3

The devil's apples are nice to look upon, but you will find that after you bite into them, there will be half a worm left.

It is a notable fact that all the poisonous fungi are scarlet speckled, and that the wholesome ones are brown or gray - as if to speak a message from the Lord Creator that sin is enticing, but it is deadly.

Many of you are familiar with the powerful dread and terror which birds and squirrels have for a rattlesnake. Mr. Murray states:

When the piercing eye of the rattlesnake is fixed upon birds, terror and amazement render them incapable of escaping, and while involuntarily keeping their eyes fixed on those of the snake, they begin to weave, and finally drop into its mouth as if paralyzed. Squirrels will run down the tree and into the jaws of the expectant devourer. Many a child and woman has been charmed in our country by snakes.

So, in like manner, the desire for a thrill and/or an evening of pleasure has caused many a precious soul to fall into the jaws of sin, because they became fascinated and overcome.

Many times young people have come at me with the accusation: "You teach that a Christian shouldn't have friendship with the unsaved boys and girls -- but I have found them so much fun. Christians seem dull and restrained. You say we shouldn't go to amusements or dress modern, but now we're more popular and we just think you are trying to keep us away from having a good time." Don't forget that all the apples of the devil have worms. “But I don't see anything wrong with that”. You told the truth -- you don't SEE. “When lust hath conceived IT BRINGETH FORTH TO SIN.” (James 1:5)

Once you taste the forbidden fruit, as Eve did, the devil will help make it more appetizing. It seems so innocent and pleasant - but do not forget that sin
deceives, hardens the heart, and sears the conscience so much that is fascinating, but it is the devil's bait for your soul. 

The fishing frog (sea devil) allures little fishes by means of worm-like appendages at its mouth. How many clubs, free suppers, and amusements the devil has. He will paint hell as a comfortable and respectable place. He will tell you God is so kind and courteous that He would not hurt us, that He’s too polite to punish us, and that sinners are too good to be tormented.

I. ADAM AND EVE

Adam and Eve come to the witness stand. Now we shall hear their own testimony of how the devil worked on them and what the results were. Satan started his lies in the Garden of Eden, just like he is telling lies today. He said: "I want to know something - did God really say you can't eat of this wonderful fruit?" Eve answers. Then satan replies, “Ah, God doesn't want you to have a good time. Besides, He knows it will make you smart and He is trying to keep you from things. But see how it shines, notice how good it looks - and it smells so fragrant. Suppose you pull one -- you don’t have to eat it if you don’t want to -- just get one and look it over."

That is the way the devil always does it: ‘You don't want to get drunk. Just take a little drink for sociability. You don't want to be an old kill joy.’

The devil was the original dirty liar who made fun of God's Word and made sin so cute and alluring.

Did you ever wonder why the devil worked on Eve first? She was not a bit selfish with the forbidden fruit. She came to Adam and said, "Look, honey, I've found the cutest, most delicious fruit. Here, you can have the core - I mean, a bite of what's left." He refuses, but her prevailing tears and his love for her caused him to say within his heart - "God has said if we eat we shall die. My dearest sweetheart has taken of this forbidden fruit and will come under God's judgment, and I can't stand to see her take it alone. I will eat thereof, and share God's wrath with her."
II. CAIN

He teaches the awful lesson you had to learn the hard way. There he stands, making fun of the blood atonement - saying it is an ugly doctrine, and makes the blood in my veins curdle. It is a slaughterhouse religion. The preaching of holiness cramps a person's wishes and desires. I bit the devil's apple, and worms of sin, sorrow, disappointment and punishment have been more than I can bear. Hatred - murder, jealousy, lying, remorse.

III. SAMSON

The lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb. Isn't she sweet? Aren't her kisses simply intoxicating? And there is the allure of her arms about him -- the sweet perfume and her soft hair and eyes ... what lovely skin. But the end is as bitter as wormwood - her feet go down to death, her steps take hold of hell.

Yes - sin is pleasant to start with. Give way to sexual passion -- maybe to necking or petting; maybe it is lewdness of a dirty picture show; or the enticement of the dance floor, or mixed bathing that is leading you down to the devil's Hell. Sure, you are having a good time, and the devil's apple is partly eaten when you find worms.

IV. ANANIAS and SAPPHIRA

Their love of money caused them to lie to the Holy Ghost and cost them their very lives.

Acts 5:1-3

1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 2 And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? 4 While it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not
lied unto men, but unto God. 5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. 6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. 7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. 8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. 9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. 10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

Ezekiel 7:19
They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumblingblock of their iniquity.

1 Timothy 6:10
For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

V. THE RICH FOOL all

Eat, drink, be merry. There was a clown who went to the doctor to see if he could be relieved of the misery of life. As in the days of Noah - - eating and drinking. If I could take you to the rescue missions and show you how that dirty, old booze has wrecked thousands, or take you to the insane asylums where the mental wrecks of society
are cast, you will see that satan's apples have worms!

VI. THE PRODIGAL SON

“Father - it's too dull around here. I want my own way and want to do as I please - I don't want anybody telling me the company to keep and the things I can't do.” The devil says there is an easier way to get money - horse racing and gambling. The devil says - run away to a far country; there won’t be anyone to watch you like a hawk. The music is wonderful, there’s dancing with beautiful girls, there are plenty of drinks, and there are no rules. Satan trotted out the beautiful apples, and plenty of appeals for young people. His apples have worms. His substance was wasted in riotous living, his false friends were gone. Yesterday there was laughter in the ballroom and bar room, but now time has told another tale: worms are in the apples.

He makes a sucker out of you - a drunkard, a dope-head, a broken-up home. He sends you down to skid row. Satan has no happy old people.

The Prodigal is now begging for a handout, and finally ends up in the hog pen. There he comes to his senses. He threw the devil's apples away - finding out, almost too late, that the devil is a liar and a deceiver.

Pleasures only endure for a short season and make a fool out of the indulger.

He sees the yawning hell ahead of him, and God's arms of mercy stretched out still. “I will arise and go to my father and home.” The father had more than the devil ever could give. He came running out to meet the sinner, and fell on his neck and kissed him.

To the devil, he paid dearly; but God gives a warm welcome, new attire, a new position, joy,
and making merry. There is more joy in the Presence of God over one sinner repenting.

Did anyone ever tell you the devil's crowd is friendlier than the Lord's? The Lord gives His portions freely, and a new life is received “This, my son, was dead and is alive - he was lost and is found.” (Luke 15:24)

In I Corinthians 4:14 - Paul said, "I write not to shame you, but as my beloved sons, I warn you." And so do I. All the devil's apples have worms!