

# “The Women of Advent – Eve”

Genesis 3:6-4:1

This Advent Season, in our Wednesday gatherings, we are going to look at three prominent women who play very prominent roles in the salvation history – Eve, Sarah, and Mary. There is a great misconception in our world, which having been repeated through the years has become an accepted lie concerning God and His Word. The readily accepted lie is that the Bible, and therefore God, does not hold women in high regard.

Those who hold that view are either willfully ignorant or willfully malicious toward God and His Church because a sincere read of Scripture clearly shows that women hold a high place in the kingdom of God and are clearly much more than simply a vehicle for producing children – as some have falsely accused.

Now Eve, Sarah, and Mary are probably best known for their role in producing children. Eve was the mother of all mankind. Sarah bore the son God promised to Abraham. And Mary, of course, was blessed to carry the ultimate child of promise – Christ Himself.

But the promise of God to send His Son to take away the sin of the world was made to all mankind – men and women. Salvation is universal. As you read salvation history, women are very prominent. But as we hear this evening, sin is also universal. We just sang, “All Mankind Fell in Adam’s Fall.” Eve ate of the forbidden fruit while Adam stood there ignoring his duty to be the spiritual guardian and leader of the human family. He failed to exercise his authority. Remember that authority, in its proper use, is given for the benefit of those under that authority. Adam’s job was to keep Eve safe, and he failed. This is why the fall into sin is called the sin of Adam.

God's perfect creation is now more than tarnished. Guilt and death have now come to the forefront of the human condition. But God, keeping with His loving, merciful nature, provides a source of redemption. Through the woman, God would send the Man who would be the Savior.

Eve would be the vehicle through whom a son would be born. Through her Seed, through her offspring, all the world would see salvation. And Eve believed that her and her family would be saved by God's grace.

This is the story of Advent – God's people looking forward to the fulfillment of God's promise that He would rescue us from sin and death. Eve is often chastised for her sin – and rightly so. God certainly saw fit to strongly rebuke her and especially her husband.

But we should not fail to remember Eve for her faith, that even though she was banished from the Garden of Eden and barred from the Tree of Life, she trusted the Lord's promise that her life would be redeemed by one of her offspring.

We see her joyous and thankful response at the birth of Cain. There has been credible speculation throughout the years that, at his birth, she might have thought he was the One. But there was another Son yet to come.

Certainly, Eve had her faults. She was flawed because of the Fall into sin, but she was also faithful. In the coming weeks, we will turn our attention to Sarah who was flawed, but faithful. And finally we will speak of Mary the mother of our Lord who was a fine, upstanding citizen and child of God, yet was flawed by sin and could not save herself. But she was faithful and looked forward to God fulfilling His promise first made to Eve. The Son of God would be born to a woman.

Sin is universal. By the grace of God, so is salvation. We gather together this Advent Season looking forward to God fulfilling His promise of forgiveness, life, righteousness, innocence, and blessedness made at our Baptism. And like those saints of old, we are flawed, but faithful. Amen.