

Scripture Reading: Genesis 3:6-12

“6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. 8 And they heard the sound of Jehovah God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of Jehovah God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then Jehovah God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." 11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" 12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." 13 And Jehovah God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."”

"God in the Garden"

In the last two messages we have seen how a dragon entered the Garden of God and deceived the woman and led to the fall of man into sin. In this morning's text we see the immediate effects of Adam's disobedience, just as God had promised,

- We see God coming to His fallen creatures as their judge & redeemer
- And we see Adam and Eve making excuses for their sin.

We will clearly see the impact of sin on mankind but it is important to remember that as God approaches Adam and Eve after their fall the writer of Genesis again uses the great covenant name of God, Jehovah God, as He comes to bring judgment but also to bring hope! So let's begin our journey through this text by attempting to answer the question raised last week:

- Why did God blame Adam?

The Bible reveals two good reasons for God putting the blame at the feet of Adam:

- Adam is our federal head!
- And Adam was not deceived!

Both can be seen in the actual account and both are discussed by the Apostle Paul in his Epistles in some contexts that are very controversial in many quarters today.

- This should not surprise us since our culture and even much of the Church have moved so far away from the Book of Beginnings.

First and foremost, Adam was the federal head of mankind. We must again stress that this does not mean that man is superior to woman any more than the Father can be seen as superior to the Son or the Spirit. We see this most clearly at the beginning of chapter eleven in Paul's first Epistle to the Corinthians:

Allow me to read this portion without most of the references to the practice of head coverings so we can focus more on what Paul says about headship.

I Corinthians 11:3 “But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. ... 7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. 8 For man is not from woman, but woman from man. 9 Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man... 10 For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels. 11 Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. 12 For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God.”

- **Just as we see equality and hierarchy in the eternal Trinity, so there is hierarchy and equality with men and women.**
- **Adam is held responsible because he was THE responsible one!**

The second reason is that Adam was not deceived in the way that Eve was, but rather made a tragic choice in his own free will that impacted all of mankind because he was the federal head of mankind.

Paul discusses this in his final Epistle and I want to read the full context of where it is found in chapter two: II Timothy 2:1 “1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, 7 for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle--I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying--a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. 8 I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; 9 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, 10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. 11 Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. 12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. 15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.”

- **I think we all know how much controversy swirls around the question of how we interact with authorities and the role of women in the Church!**

And yet God reveals through His Apostle how they are closely related to the fall of man and the redemption that God has wrought through Christ. We must be so careful not to separate what God has joined together! As God comes to Adam and Eve in the garden He knows what has happened and what it will mean for mankind and all of His Creation: And though He must come in judgment because His justice demands it He also comes as their redeemer seeking their return and this is what Paul covers so beautifully in Romans chapter five:

Romans 5:12 “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned-- 18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.”

God promised that Adam would die the death on the day that he ate of the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and Paul clearly shows us that this is exactly what happened, but mankind was not left without hope, hope that can only be found in God's Son in whom He was well pleased: Jesus!

Paul also explains how Jesus is the new Adam in the great resurrection chapter in the First Epistle to the Corinthians: I Corinthians 15: “17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. 20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.”

I think it is very important for us to remember all of this as we consider how God came to Adam and Eve in the Garden after their fall into sin... God knew what had happened AND God knew what He was going to do about it, something that the persons of the Godhead had planned from before the foundation of the world! Adam & Eve immediately know the result of their sin: They feel shame rather than righteousness because they have lost their innocence and now stand exposed in their sin before our Holy God. We see them make a feeble attempt to cover their sin with fig leaves which graphically pictures the sad history of mankind trying to cover their sin and find favor again with God in so many pathetic ways.

- **Their efforts do them no good because they must hide when they hear God's presence in the Garden.**

Of course they cannot hide their sin from God any more than we can today and thus we see God coming in an attempt to be their redeemer knowing full well that He must first be their judge... It is again Jehovah God, the covenant God of His people who comes walking in the Garden! The one who can rightly be the just and the justifier of those who put their trust in Jesus.

God seeks out Adam with His first question: 9 "Then Jehovah God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" At this point Adam is honest telling God, "I heard Your voice in the garden, & I was afraid because I was naked; & I hid myself." The Lord then asks the next logical question and tries to draw an honest confession from Adam:

- **"Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"**

A penitent heart would have confessed saying, YES I partook of the forbidden fruit and now I have died just as you promised and I now stand before you in shame knowing I am helpless and in need of your grace & salvation! Sadly sin has taken hold of Adam and that cry is not heard but rather a response that echoes down through history is so many ways...

12 "Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

It is EVERYONE's fault but Adam:

- **The woman YOU gave me did it!**

That God did not immediately cast Adam and Eve into the Lake of Fire and start over is a great testimony of God's patience as He carries out the plan that was conceived in love from before the foundation of the world.

However, God must pronounce His judgment which we will consider in detail next week but before He does He turns to the woman to give Eve a chance to properly repent as well:

13 Jehovah God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" Eve is honest but not in any way repentive joining her husband in his blame shifting, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

- **It is significant that God did not engage the serpent with any of these questions?**

Adam & Eve were given the opportunity to repent and seek salvation from their sin because if they were given the gift of faith, as I believe they later were, there could be salvation for them through Christ Jesus.

Satan's rebellion had resulted in his judgment and there would be no event in history that would keep him from the Lake of Fire in the end.

Next week we will see the judgments that God must pronounce on all those involved in the fall of man and the real consequences of Adam's sin which continue to be with us even today.

There will also come the great promise of salvation: There will be a new Adam who comes and accomplishes what the first Adam failed to do!

God had told Adam that he would die the death on the day that he ate and we see that full impact: Adam's physical body is now dying and he is ashamed of his nakedness. His relationship with God has been broken so that he must now hide from his Father. His relationship with his wife Eve has been broken as he now blames her for His sin! And his dominion over the earth has been marred by his sin putting sweat on his brow and causing the whole creation to groan!

➤ **There is much to be put right and that is exactly what the new Adam sets out to do!**

The Apostle John discusses this at the beginning of his first Epistle and shows us the important lesson that we must learn from our first parents: Yes, as children of Adam we sin, but unlike Adam and Eve we must come honestly before God with confession and NOT make excuses for our sin!

We live in a world where there are a myriad of excuses for sin: The entire industry of psychiatry is based on finding ways to explain man's actions outside of moral responsibility.

We have penitentiaries today because criminals need not be punished for their sin but rather must be rehabilitated so they can once again be productive members of society.

Children who fall into sin are not to be blamed because it is their parents fault, or they don't have enough money or enough food or enough video games and on and on and on the excuses go.

➤ **We have taken "the woman YOU gave me" blame-shifting to new and greater heights!**

And help is even becoming scarce in many churches where they do not want to discuss sin but only look at the bright side of life!

IF we want to know the joy that Jesus offers us for this life we must not make excuses for our sin, we must come honestly before God confessing sin.

Let me conclude with the comforting words that the Apostle John opens his first Epistle with: Words that reveal how God did not leave man in his sin but sent His very own Son as the man who would take the full wrath of our sin upon Himself: But John warns us that we must NOT think that because this is true that we can ignore or deny the sin that we find in our lives... Those sins must be confessed, honestly, so that we can know the forgiveness and joy that God offers.

And it is all because God comes to us in Jesus as He did to Adam and Eve in the garden...

I John 1: "1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life-- 2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us-- 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

➤ **We must NOT hide from God or try to cover our sins with human efforts as Adam and Eve did in the Garden!**

7 **“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”**

- **Please notice that walking with God in the light is NOT sinless perfection because John says there is sin that needs to be cleansed and this is where our honesty before God is so important...**

8 **“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”**

- **We don’t fool God by pretending we are doing OK, any more than Adam could with all his blame-shifting or fig leaves**

9 **“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

- **That is the great hope that we have in Jesus & just so we don’t miss this vital point John says it one more time!**

10 **“If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”**

This is why we have a time of confession in our worship service each week and why it is so vital: It is the entrance into all the blessings and joy God offers for the rest of the service.

We have a time of individual confession and a time of corporate confession because we have all committed sins that must be confessed and we have sins as a gathered people and we are the advocates to bring the sins of our nation before God illustrated so well in Daniel nine.

Parents, please help our children to understand what is happening at this point of the service and to participate in and know that joy that follows as we hear about our forgiveness in Jesus.

And finally, we must learn to be honest with God each day of our lives always bringing our sins before Him rather than our excuses.

- **We must learn to pray with King David, ‘against you and you only have I sinned and done this evil.’**

When God confronted Adam with his sin he made all kinds of excuses even blaming God. When Nathan confronted King David he honestly confessed his sin and made NO excuses!

This is why David is called the man after God’s own heart and may it truly be so with us now and forever more that we might cry out with King David: “12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You. 14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. 15 O Jehovah, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.”

Communion Meditation: Psalm 23

“A Psalm of David. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. 3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.