

SERMON NOTES:

VOL 2: Part 10: Two Men, Two Destinies: Adam and Christ | PALM SUNDAY

BIG Idea: You were born into Adam's story - but you're invited into Christ's.

Application: If you're in Christ, you are no longer defined by Adam's failure - but by Jesus' victory. Live like grace reigns.

Join us as we read the Bible together in 2025.

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Romans 5:12-14 (NLT) *Adam and Christ Contrasted*

¹² When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. ¹³ Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break. ¹⁴ Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come.

"We cannot point the finger at [Adam] in self-righteous innocence, for we share in his guilt. And it is because we sinned in Adam that we die today." ~ **John Stott**

"The Bible takes a radically different approach – that of human solidarity. People of other centuries and cultures have been and are better at accepting this truth. Many other cultures accept the idea that the individual is part of the whole family, tribe or clan – and not a how in and of him or herself." ~ **Tim Keller**

What feels unfair at first becomes unbelievably freeing - because the same system that passed Adam's guilt to us now offers us Christ's righteousness.

Adam's failure wasn't just history – it became our heritage. But in Christ, history is rewritten, and our legacy is redeemed.

3 CONTRASTS BETWEEN ADAM & JESUS

Romans 5:15 (NLT)

¹⁵ But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ.

1. The motivation at the heart of each deed was very different.
2. The results of the two deeds are opposite.
3. The power of the two is different.

The effect of the comparison here, set in a deliberative piece of rhetoric, is rather like a Rembrandt painting – the dark backdrop of Adam's sin serves to highlight the brightness and clarity of God's grace gift. The comparison by contrast also brings to the fore another key point – namely, that those who are in Christ and feeling the effects of the reign of his grace in their lives are no longer in Adam and do not

labor under the reign of sin, which Paul has described as the condition from Adam to Moses (and beyond until Christ).” ~ Ben Witherington III

3 SIMILARITIES BETWEEN ADAM & JESUS

Romans 5:16-17 (NLT)

¹⁶ And the result of God’s gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man’s sin. For Adam’s sin led to condemnation, but God’s free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. ¹⁷ For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God’s wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

1. Where one sin brought condemnation, one gift brought justification.

“The grace of Christ is not merely undeserved favor. It is also a power that reverses the consequences of Adam’s sin. It overflows to such an extent that it triumphs over what Adam introduced into the world. As a result, believers, who have received this grace, can be certain that sin and death will never triumph over them. They (sin and death) have been decisively defeated by Jesus Christ.” ~ Thomas Schreiner

You can’t opt out of Adam, but you can say ‘yes’ to Christ!

Romans 5:18 (NLT)

¹⁸ Yes, Adam’s one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ’s one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone.

2. The result of one trespass was condemnation, but the result of one act of righteousness was justification.

Romans 5:19 (NLT)

¹⁹ Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

3. Through the disobedience of the one man, the many were *made* sinners; but through the obedience of the one man, the many will be *made* righteous.

Romans 5:20 (NLT)

²⁰ God’s law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God’s wonderful grace became more abundant.

Galatians 3:19 (NLT)

¹⁹ Why, then, was the law given? It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins. But the law was designed to last only until the coming of the child who was promised. God gave his law through angels to Moses, who was the mediator between God and the people.

Romans 5:21 (NLT)

²¹ So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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