

Keep It Real

Gen 3:8 (NASB) Now they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Heard - perceived with their ears. The Sound of the Lord.

They heard the sound they knew the sound they recognized the sound because they were familiar with the sound.

The sound proceeded the presence of God

A sound, the sound, always proceeds the presence of the Lord.

1Th 4:16 (NASB) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

When you hear the sound don't draw back, run forward

Don't hide from but present yourself front and center.

Adam heard the sound, he knew that sound preceded the presence of God and he hid himself in the trees.

One time I had locked myself out of a building. It had self locking doors and I had run out to my truck and didn't release till I heard the door click behind me that my keys, my wallet and my phone were in the building and I was miles, like 20, from home. I thought this ain't good. Then I remember that an RLC member lived not too far away and so I began to walk to their house. When I got there the lights were on and as soon as I knocked on the door the lights went off and the family hid themselves behind furniture. (They admitted that after I said, HEY! Its Pastor Jimmy!)

Fear always causes the fearful to draw back, to stay hid among trees or pews.

Step out and run to when you hear that sound.

How many times had Father come into the garden and Adam and Eve ran out to meet Him? We don't know but we do know this time they did not run out to meet Him.

Gen 3:9 (NASB) Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

Right here we uncover a truth that runs throughout all time, from the Garden, through every page of scripture and right up to our day this day.

God didn't need information

God doesn't deal with deceit. God only deals in truth.

He did not love the prostitute any more than He loved the pharisee and He loved the sadducee as much as He loved the fishermen. So why could He not help the pharisee and the sadducee as much as He helped the prostitute, the tax collector and the fishermen?

Self induced deceit.

They would not admit they needed help. Adam hid behind trees and they hid behind religious robes.

Joh 8:32-33 (TPT) For if you embrace the truth, it will release more freedom into your lives." [33] Surprised by this, they said, "But we're the descendants of Abraham and we're already free. We've never been in bondage to anyone. How could you say that we will be released into more freedom?"

They are living in an illusion because even at this time the Jews are the political pawns of Rome, and in the past they have been captives of both Egypt and Babylon.

Where you are - how are you -

God requires of us that we come out from our hiding places

God can't heal what we conceal.

We cover our scars with make up and our pain with religious phrases and we stay hide.

Why?

Gen 3:10 (NASB) He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

Afraid - fear, anxiety shame.

- I am ashamed of who I am
- I am ashamed of who I have become
- I am ashamed of what I have done
- I don't want you to see me for who I am so I will pretend to someone else. Someone you approve of, someone who hasn't failed you like I have.
- I don't measure up
- I am not good enough.

Gen 3:11 (NASB) And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?"

I love this! God didn't deny that Adam was naked but He asked, who told you that you were naked?

First I want you to notice that Adam hid from God not because of the guilt of his sin but because of the shame of his nakedness.

If sin be a prison shame be the bars.

Shame = a painful emotion caused by consciousness of guilt, shortcoming, or impropriety, a condition of humiliating disgrace

Notice some things about shame.

Caused by guilt, but not just guilt also shortcomings.

A condition of humiliating disgrace

disgrace dis = asunder, apart, reversal. Grace.

The antidote for shame is grace

Before grace can be applied one must come out from hiding.

Grace calls you out of shame and mercy erases your sin.

The first step into recovery, redemption or restoration is exposure.

God could not extend grace to Adam till Adam exposed himself by stepping out from behind the wall of shame.

The thing that conceals you serves to constrain you.

Whether it is trees or robes of self righteousness it doesn't protect you it imprisons you.

There is a verse that saints like to quote - especially if your inclined to prayer

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

But that verse doesn't abide alone - it is part of a larger writing.

Jas 5:16 (NASB) Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. A prayer of a righteous person, when it is brought about, can accomplish much.

Fault = to miss the mark, to err, be mistaken, to miss or wander from the path of uprightness and honor to do or go wrong.

It can mean sin but can also mean mistakes, shortcoming, brokenness

Fault fracture fragmentation

Exposure

Galatians 6:1 Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person

back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

This requires a church of Grace, because a legalistic church expels its weak members.

The doctrine of the Pharisee makes no room for the imperfect.

* Keith Moore about the pastors meeting

* Willie George we pretend perfection

I let people see the cracks in my life. We can't be phony. We've got to keep it real.

When you are in an atmosphere of Grace exposure is not dangerous it is healing.

OK - so let's get back to the message.

Adam hid because of his shame. His sense of deficiency - I love God's question, "Who told you..."

Who told you that you were unqualified, unloved unwanted?

Who told you that you didn't measure up, weren't good enough weren't

Who told you that your dream was stupid, your purpose useless or your destiny hopeless

Who drove you into hiding?

God will always call you out of hiding

All of us are influenced by the voices of our lives. Both spiritual and naturally. What we have been told has shaped our lives.

What we have been told has diminished us or increased us.

Today I want to deal directly with those voices that have highlighted your shortcomings your area of deficiency.

The enemy pointed out Adam's deficiency to cause him shame, separate him from grace and cause him to hide from the only One who could heal him.

It is amazing how many people carry what they hear with them for years.

Some mature adults are still carrying what they heard as children.

Some saints are still struggling against what they heard years ago.

What they were told was irrelevant

The question is not what they were told but who told you that?

Were they qualified to say what they said.

Always answer the question who before you run with the what.

Next week I am going to share some insights into my favorite of all the OT characters David - David learned to keep it real and God raised him up.