

Beginnings

Hide and Seek

Genesis 3:8-24

March 25, 2018 am

HDBC

This morning we come back to Genesis 3 for number 9 in this series, Beginnings.

The events recorded here led to the pain, suffering, confusion, heartache, that we still experience today. Everything that is bad in our world finds its roots in this chapter. It records the fall from innocence that resulted when Adam and Eve disobeyed God for the first time, introducing sin into the human race.

Last week we looked at verses 1-7, which described the sins of Adam and Eve.

Today we finish the chapter by looking at the first game of ***Hide and Seek***. Adam and Eve hid from God, but, in his mercy, He sought and found them.

Read the Text: Genesis 3:8-24

(Note 5 things)

1. The Cover-up (7-8)

Immediately the eyes of Adam and Eve were opened. They had sinned and they knew it. The first thing noted is their awareness of being naked. I discussed this last week. Not only was their pure and innocent relationship with God affected, but so was their relationship with each other. Suddenly their physical appearance took on greater importance. Pride, insecurity and shame affected how they viewed each other and themselves.

With this awareness came a need to cover-up. So, they took fig leaves and made clothes for themselves. It was a sad attempt to **fix** their problem. What they did not yet realize was that they were helpless to fix this problem.

Not only did they try to cover their sin, but they tried to hide from God. They heard His voice and rather than moving toward Him, they ran away. They were afraid and embarrassed. Sin does that. It builds a wedge between us and God.

There is a forever game of hide and seek going on between God and people. People hide, God seeks. The lost person hides from God to avoid seeing their own sin and lostness. The believer often hides from God to avoid conviction and shame over sin. The good news is that God is always seeking, desiring to make things right with us.

2. **The Confrontation (9-11)**

The Lord came to them. *Where are you?* It was a question that reverberated through the garden. It was a sobering, searching question that must have stabbed the heart of Adam like a fiery sword.

Before they had shared an equal desire for fellowship and come willingly toward each other. Not now. Now, one party was shunning the fellowship. But the other refused to give up. God came looking!

Adam finally realized he could not stay hidden from God. So, they emerged from the bushes with their silly fig leaves and stood before God. Adam offered a meager explanation. *We were naked, so we had to hide.* No admission of guilt. **The statement betrayed** their actions. Note God's response. *Who told you? Have you eaten from the tree?*

God knew, but was soliciting a confession. Opportunity for Adam to come clean and tell the truth. God knew that the first step in restoring fellowship was a clean and clear confession of his sin. Adam had to face the truth of what he had done.

3. **The Excuses(12-13)**

This was a great opportunity to confess what God already knew. To admit his sin. But he failed miserably. He started the **blame-game**.

It was the woman. This is just wrong! What an incredible stain on Adam's record! This was a **cowardly, evil thing!** This is the same man who earlier had looked upon this woman and declared that she was **bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh**. Sin has a damaging effect on relationships!

Adam also blamed God. *You gave me!* We are still doing it today!

God, you gave me these hormones! It's your fault.

God, you put me in that circumstance! It's your fault.

God, you allowed that to happen! It's your fault.

Eve learned from Adam! When God turned to her, she also tried to deflect blame from herself. It was the serpent's fault. **Adam** blamed Eve, **Eve** blamed the snake, and the poor **snake** had nobody to blame.

4. **The Consequences (14-19)**

God goes right to the point and reveals that there are consequences to sin. He offers a mixture of negative consequences and grace. Would He forgive? Yes! But **forgiveness negates judgment, not consequences!**

A. The Serpent (14-15)

The serpent would be cursed to crawl on its belly. God revealed the warfare that he would have with the woman and her seed.

Snakes are reviled and feared by most people. There is a natural disdain. There are exceptions, but not the rule. In the second part of verse 15 the focus shifts. Note plural changes to singular. The curse went beyond the serpent to Satan Himself.

This is the first gospel proclamation in the Bible. Here, the offspring of the woman is a reference to Jesus, who would be bruised by Satan in his death, but who would conquer Satan through his death and resurrection.

Interesting that the two things, the bruising of the heel of Christ and the bruising of the head of Satan are seen as a simultaneous event. The serpent (Satan) bites the foot of Jesus in the crucifixion. But it is in that same event that Jesus crushes the head of Satan!

B. The Woman (16)

God then turned to the woman. **Two things.** Pain and suffering would become the companion of the woman during the time of her greatest fulfillment. In the process of bearing children, she would suffer.

Furthermore, her relationship with her husband would be strained. Her **desire** was to master her husband, but she would not succeed. Same word used in the next chapter where God said to Cain, *sin is crouching at the door and its desire is for you!* It wants to master you.

Every labor pain is a reminder of the sin of Eve.

Every stress and conflict in marriage is a reminder of sin of Eve.

C. The Man (17-19)

Two things he said to Adam.

First, your work will become difficult. Before, work had been a joy. Now it would become hard. He would have to struggle in his work.

Second, God makes it clear that he will die.

He came from the dust, and to the dust he will return, in death.

5. The Future (20-24)

These verses point to the future. All hope was not lost.

Adam's Faith (20)

Adam named his wife, Eve. It means **life-giver**. He did this because she would be the mother of all the living. Wow! Think of what a faith move that was. They would fulfill their destiny to be fruitful and fill the earth. There would be a future! Adam had listened to what God told Eve. He heard the statement about bearing children. It gave him hope.

God's Provision (21)

God killed an animal and made clothing of skins. This not only was a much better covering for the man and woman, but was a picture of the atonement of Christ that would cover their sins.

Adam and Eve had not connected their sin with death. God now makes that clear to them. Sin leads to death! As their physical covering could come only through shed blood, so their spiritual covering could come only through shed blood.

God's Protection (22-24)

God blocked them from the tree of life. This exile from the garden and from that tree was painful, but it was also an act of grace. The garden had been the original holy of holies where they fellowshiped with God.

As Kent Hughes has written, it was the original divine space. In the garden they breathed the air of God's presence, enjoyed the sweet fragrance of his love and enjoyed unbroken fellowship with him.

Now this was impossible. Their new condition as sinners prevented them from enjoying God in the same way as they had before. Their sin led to spiritual death. Therefore, they would need a spiritual new birth.

Their eternal life could no longer come through eating of the tree of life but through faith in Christ. Had they eaten of this tree in a sinful, unredeemed state they would have forever lived in a broken state in terms of their relationship with God. Their original relationship with God could only be restored through the sacrificial death of Jesus.

This was an act of grace that enabled them to be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Conclusions - Three important things to learn from this chapter.

1. Humans were created as free agents.

We have been given the freedom to make choices about our relationship with God.

2. Sin separates us from God.

Sin brings negative consequences that are not always negated by forgiveness.

3. God, in His infinite, undeserved love, offers forgiveness.