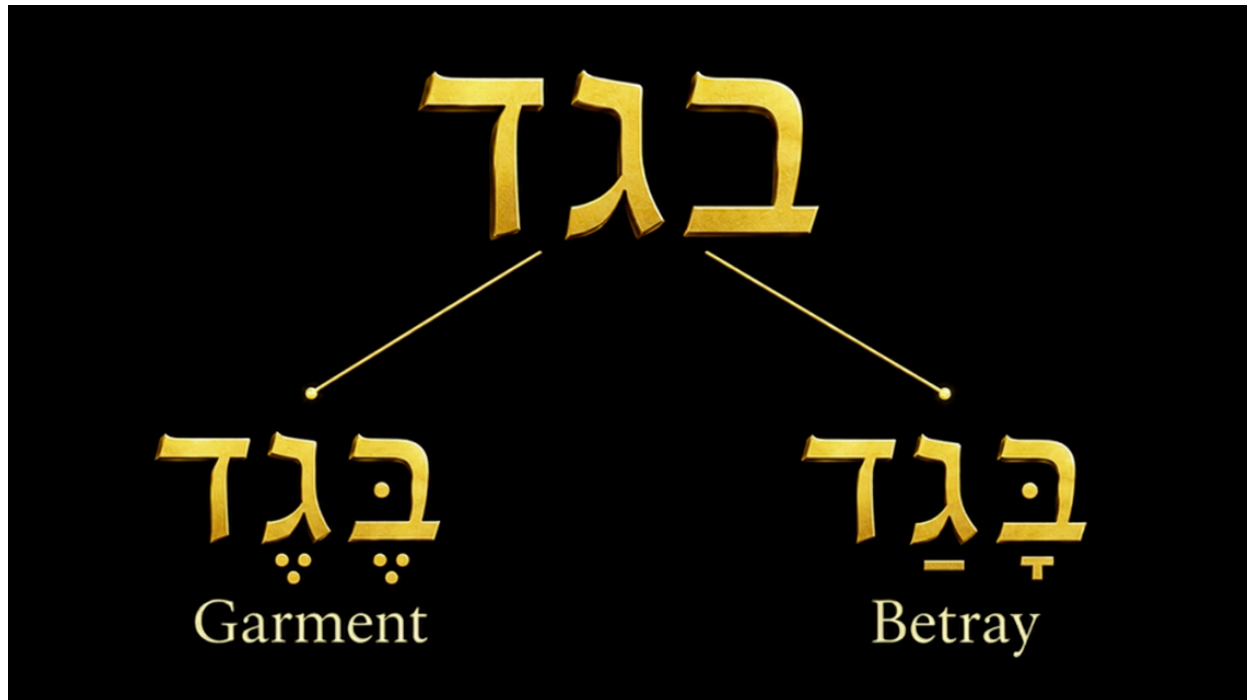


Brothers, we are going to jump right into it, because if you are like us this has been one heck of a week full of soul searching, crying out to God and asking Him to give us clean hands and pure hearts that can make impartial judgments first in our own lives, then for our families, and then in this church. This repentance coupled with training will produce just judges that can be sent out into the world who will make disciples and teach others to obey everything that Jesus commanded. Our study of the Word this week has yielded some things that we want to share with you this morning, so let's dive right in.

BETRAYAL,
DIVINE CLOTHING
&
FAITH FOR THE HARVEST

During this past week our personal study of the Word led to discovering a root word with a fascinating connection.



At the top you see the Hebrew characters ("bait, gimel, and dalit") Without the vowel markings the word for garment and betray are the same. Beged and Bagad. When we look through some well known stories of betrayal throughout the word it is interesting to note how many times coverings or disguises are connected.



Betrayal with Clothing against God

Let's go back to the first time we see everyone in the whole world making a covering for themselves after betraying God and breaking the command He gave them.

- **Genesis 3:7–8 (NIV)**

⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

- Do you see how Adam and Eve were afraid because of their sin
- The coverings were Intended to cover shame, later Adam said I was afraid

- They did not want to be seen naked
- Their self made clothing was Unable to restore fellowship with God

Let's move on to another story



Betrayal with clothing against brothers

- **Genesis 27:14–16 (NIV)**

¹⁴ So he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and she prepared some tasty food, just the way his father liked it. ¹⁵ Then Rebekah took the best clothes (beged) of Esau her older son, which she had in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob. ¹⁶ She also covered his hands and the smooth part of his neck with the goatskins.
- In this familiar story again, clothing is used to disguise the betrayal, not just of a brother but also a father

- In v.12 Jacob actually says, perhaps my father will feel me (referring to the disguise) and I shall seem to be mocking him and bring a curse on myself
- Jacob was aware that disguising himself before his father could result in a curse
- The covering up of sin among brothers and in this house was something the Lord exposed over these last two weeks
- It's not just betrayal against your brother, but also against your father
- Fear leads to covering so that you can get what you want

- **Genesis 37:31–33 (NIV)**

³¹ Then they got Joseph's robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. ³² They took the ornate robe back to their father and said, "We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son's robe."

³³ He recognized it and said, "It is my son's robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces."

- Intentional deception using a garment to hide unrighteous actions
- They used the very thing that was given as a gift from the father as the method to deceive
- Fear led them to cover their sin, and present themselves as something they are not, innocent
- And this is going beyond pulling fig leaves off a tree, these brothers had to kill something to hide their sin. There was blood on their hands in their attempt to cover sin.

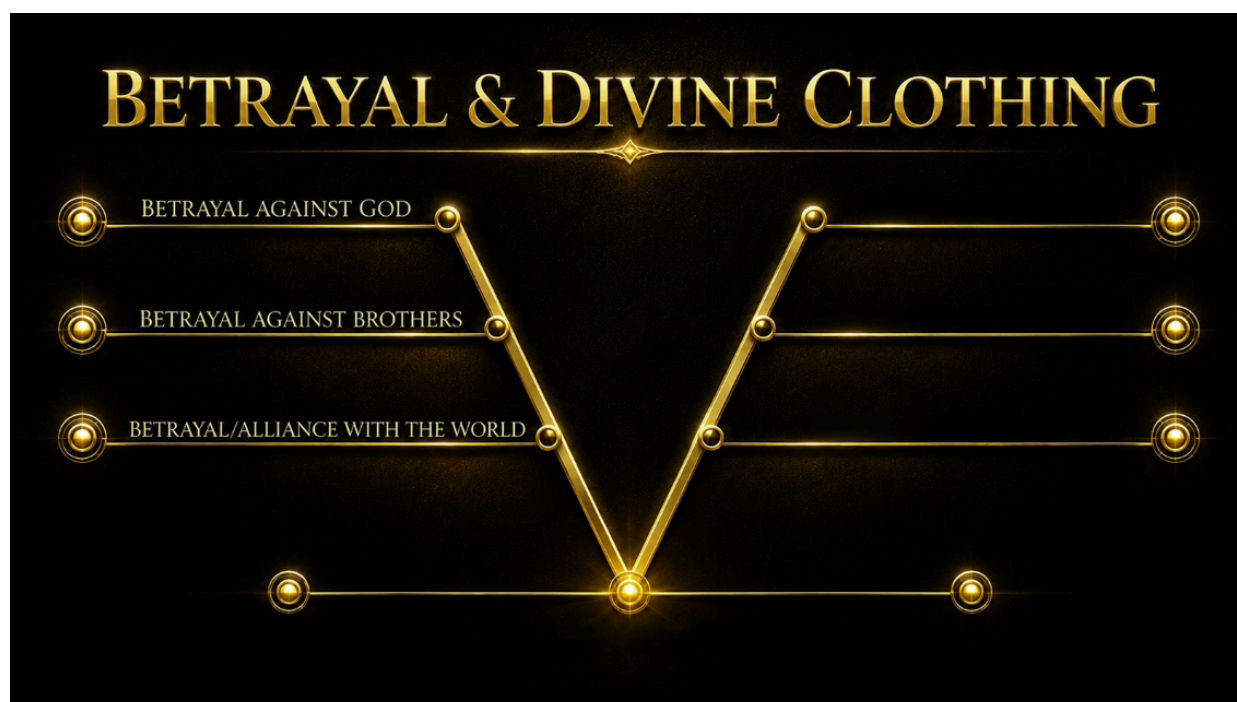
- **Joshua 9:3–6 (NIV)**

³ However, when the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, ⁴ they resorted to a ruse: They went as a delegation

whose donkeys were loaded with worn-out sacks and old wineskins, cracked and mended.⁵ They put worn and patched sandals on their feet and wore old clothes. All the bread of their food supply was dry and moldy.⁶ Then they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the Israelites, "We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us."

- The escalation that we see here is that this problem is not just with a few sons of Israel, this is in an entire people group covering themselves to pretend to be something they are not to avoid an outcome they don't want
- This problem is common to man, fear that leads to covering up and pretending to be something you are not to avoid an unfavorable outcome or get what you want
- The problem is, there was a provision in the law that if they would have been honest and come forward God had already made a way for them to be accepted...
- No cover up was needed, just humility and submission

This willingness to cover up, to pretend in this story was to be a part of God's people, but what about when you are covering up simply to fit in with the world



Betrayal with clothing to ally with the world

- **1 Samuel 28:8–10 (NIV)**

⁸ So Saul disguised himself, putting on other clothes (beged), and at night he and two men went to the woman [who was the witch of Endor]. “Consult a spirit for me,” he said, “and bring up for me the one I name.”

⁹ But the woman said to him, “Surely you know what Saul has done. He has cut off the mediums and spiritists from the land. Why have you set a trap for my life to bring about my death?”

¹⁰ Saul swore to her by the Lord, “As surely as the Lord lives, you will not be punished for this.”

- Now we see the king who was once full of the Spirit of God, who had even done some right things but now full of fear about losing what the Lord was cutting off, now disguising himself to get help from the world to try and change the outcome.

- This is the heart of the cover up, the disguise is trying to appear to be something you're not to get what you want or avoid getting what you don't want
- Saul was willing to align himself with something demonic and what he didn't realize was the result of this alliance would leave him trembling with

- **1 Kings 14:1–10 (NIV)**

14 At that time Abijah son of Jeroboam became ill,² and Jeroboam said to his wife, “Go, disguise yourself, so you won’t be recognized as the wife of Jeroboam. Then go to Shiloh. Ahijah the prophet is there—the one who told me I would be king over this people.”³ Take ten loaves of bread with you, some cakes and a jar of honey, and go to him. He will tell you what will happen to the boy.”⁴ So Jeroboam’s wife did what he said and went to Ahijah’s house in Shiloh.

Now Ahijah could not see; his sight was gone because of his age.⁵ But the Lord had told Ahijah, “Jeroboam’s wife is coming to ask you about her son, for he is ill, and you are to give her such and such an answer. When she arrives, she will pretend to be someone else.”

⁶ So when Ahijah heard the sound of her footsteps at the door, he said, “Come in, wife of Jeroboam. Why this pretense? I have been sent to you with bad news.”⁷ Go, tell Jeroboam that this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘I raised you up from among the people and appointed you ruler over my people Israel.’⁸ I tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, but you have not been like my servant David, who kept my commands and followed me with all his heart, doing only what was right in my eyes.⁹ You have done more evil than all who lived

before you. You have made for yourself other gods, idols made of metal; you have aroused my anger and turned your back on me.

¹⁰ “ ‘Because of this, I am going to bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam. I will cut off from Jeroboam every last male in Israel—slave or free. I will burn up the house of Jeroboam as one burns dung, until it is all gone.

- How foolish is it to disguise yourself to a blind man?
- Jeroboam knows he is not right before God and Ahijah knows it, but because of fear, Jeroboam still seeks to cover, and present his wife as something she is not.
- This is us before the Lord, coming in to this house, sitting before a man of God, you are sitting before the God of the man and no covering is sufficient to hide anything from Him

- **Hebrews 4:13 (ESV)**

¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are **naked** and exposed to the **eyes** of him to whom we must give account.

- No covering is sufficient in Gods sight. No amount of scheming, no amount of work you go through to hide your sin, can keep you from the account you must give.

- **Proverbs 24:11–12 (NIV)**

¹¹ Rescue those being led away to death;
hold back those staggering toward slaughter.

¹² If you say, “But we knew nothing about this,”
does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?

Does not he who guards your life know it?

Will he not repay everyone according to what they have done?

- Even your very heart motives are seen by the Lord.

- **Psalm 139:3–4 (NIV)**

³ You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.

⁴ Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.

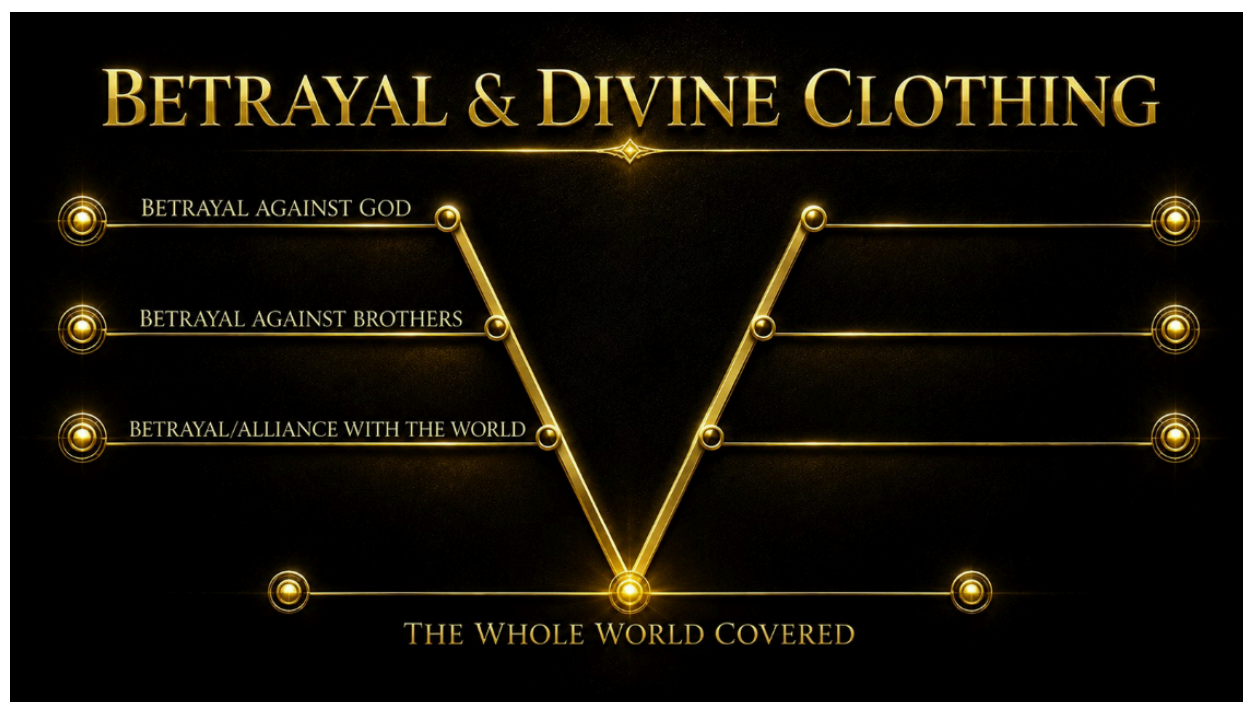
- The Lord knows ALL your ways—completely exposed

- **Ecclesiastes 12:14 (NIV)**

¹⁴ For God will bring every deed into judgment,
including every hidden thing,
whether it is good or evil.

- **NOTHING IS HIDDEN FROM GOD**

- Fig leaves
- Esau's Clothes
- Joseph's Robe
- The Gibeonites clothes
- Saul's disguise
- Jeroboam's wife's disguise



Culmination — The Whole World Covered

We arrive at a prophecy from Isaiah who is looking at a picture of the world in the end of days

- **Isaiah 24:16-18 (NIV)**

¹⁶ From the ends of the earth we hear singing:

“Glory to the Righteous One.”

But I said, “I waste away, I waste away!

Woe to me!

The treacherous betray!

With treachery the treacherous betray!”

17 Terror and pit and snare await you,
O people of the earth.

18 Whoever flees at the sound of terror
will fall into a pit;
whoever climbs out of the pit

will be caught in a snare.
The floodgates of the heavens are opened,
the foundations of the earth shake.

Bōgədîm bāgādû ûbeğed bōgədîm bāgādû.

“The betrayers betray; with betrayal the betrayers betray.”

It seems as though in the last days the entire world is full of covenantal unfaithfulness.

People wearing the finest of clothes and deceiving each other about the actual state of their hearts

No where else in scripture is the same word repeated 5 times in one verse and it is describing the level of betrayal against God having consumed the whole world and it's a trap, a pit to fall into, a snare to be caught in

Listen to what Revelation says about this:

- **Revelation 17:3-6 (NIV)**

3 Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. 4 The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries.

- The great prostitute who is drunk with the blood Gods holy people is adorned with clothing

- **Revelation 18:14-17 (NIV)**

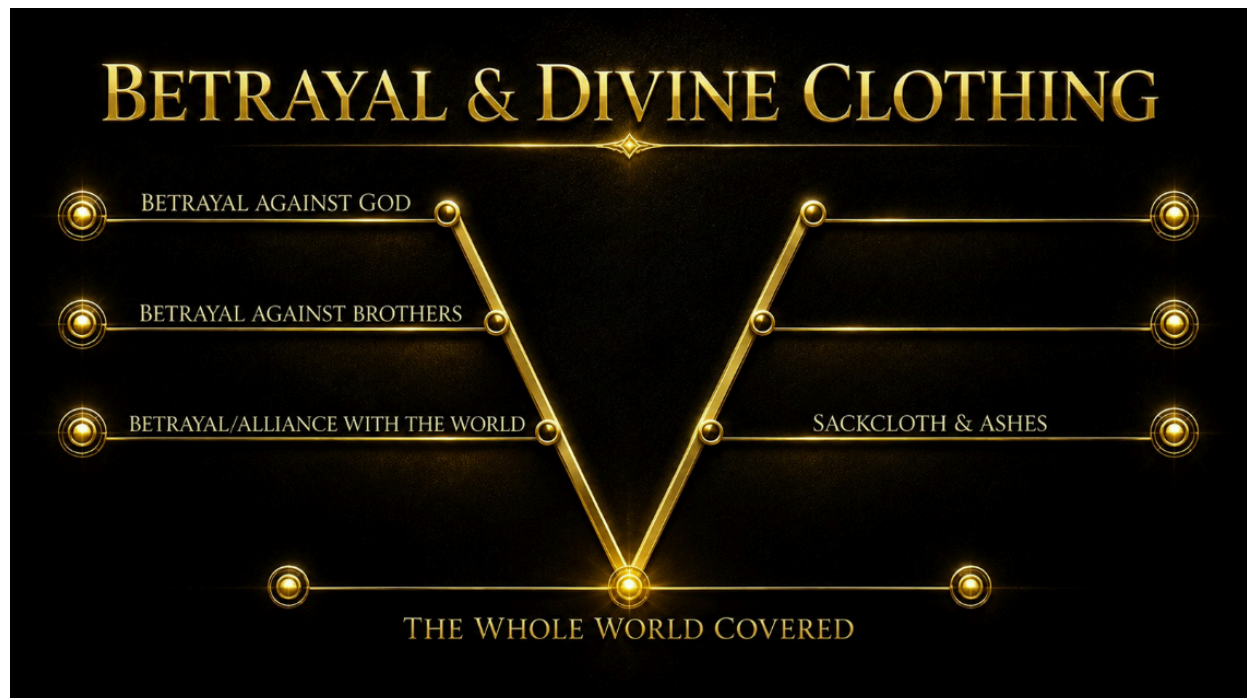
16 and cry out:

“Woe! Woe to you, great city,

dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet,
and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!
17 In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!’

- The great city of Babylon is described as covered with fine clothing. With people going in and out, engaging in trade, and living in her luxuries.
- This is just like nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon sitting in his palace content and at ease and then all of the sudden he is exposed and everything is lost

But we are not here to leave you hopeless...there is a way out of this snare and trap



There is a clothing that you can put on instead of a disguise. We see in scripture a garment that is synonymous with humility before God.

Turning with sackcloth and Ashes

As we were going through in Genesis 35 last week, there had to be a change of garments that took place among the entire household in order to go before the Lord.

The gentiles were also required to go through this humbling process of putting on a change of garments.

- **Jonah 3:5–9 (LSB)**

5 And the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

6 Then the word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, laid aside his mantle from him, covered *himself* with sackcloth, and sat on the ashes.

7 And he cried out and said,
“In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, animal, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat, and do not let them drink water.

8 “But both man and animal must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God with *their* strength that each may turn from his evil way and from the violence which is in his hands.

9 “Who knows, God may turn and relent and turn away from His burning anger so that we will not perish.”

- Rather than pretending to be something we are not, the scriptures speak of putting on sackcloth and rolling in ashes. Which represent a public acknowledgement of an inward state.
- When you recognize that you have been pretending and disguising yourself to get what you want or to avoid getting what you don't want out of fear, this is to be replaced with fear of the Lord and His awesome power and putting on sackcloth and ashes.

Listen to how Peter says it,

- **1 Peter 5:5 (NIV 1984)**

"Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'"

- If you have been disguising yourself and covering up your actual state, you are naked before God and He is at war with you
- The response is to clothe yourself in humility and He will give you grace

This is your demonstration of repentance and repentance itself is humility that brings the grace or empowerment of God

Repentance brings Grace

- **Deuteronomy 30:1–10 (NIV)**

30 When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come on you and you take them to heart wherever the Lord your God disperses you among the nations,² and when you and your children return to the Lord your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today,³ then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you.⁴ Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the Lord your God will gather you and bring you back.⁵ He will bring you to the land that belonged to your ancestors, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your ancestors.⁶ The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.⁷ The Lord your God will put all these

curses on your enemies who hate and persecute you.⁸ You will again obey the Lord and follow all his commands I am giving you today.⁹ Then the Lord your God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hands and in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your land. The Lord will again delight in you and make you prosperous, just as he delighted in your ancestors,¹⁰ if you obey the Lord your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

- As soon as you begin to turn from your sin, the Lord turns to you to do you good. He goes from being at war with you, to pouring out grace

Or as Nahmanides said,

“ Then the LORD your God will open up your heart. As the Sages say, “When one comes to cleanse himself of impurity, heaven assists him.” These verses promise that you will return to Him with all your heart, and that He will assist you in doing so.”

Michael Carasik, ed., *Deuteronomy: Introduction and Commentary*, trans. Michael Carasik, *The Commentators' Bible*, (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2015), 203.

Something beautiful happens when you throw away your filthy garments that you have been using to disguise yourself and hide from God...While in the state of disguise, there is no assistance. BUT, the man who recognizes his sin, and puts on sackcloth and ashes, all of heaven is ready to assist.



Clothing brothers

- **Zechariah 3:1-6 (NIV)**

3 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. 2 The Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"

3 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel.

4 The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes."

Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and **I will put fine garments on you.**"

5 Then I said, "Put a clean turban on his head." **So they** put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, **while the angel of the Lord stood by.**

6 The angel of the Lord gave this charge to Joshua: 7 "This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'If you will walk in obedience to me and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here.

- Satan stands ready to accuse always...you have been hearing his lies
 - You don't fit in, you don't belong, everybody else gets it you don't, it'll never work for you, you don't belong - ready to disqualify
 - But for the man who is literally described as a burning stick snatched from the fire, the Lord PUTS FINE GARMENTS ON HIM
 - And who does He use to do that? The ones around him!!!
 - He then says if you walk in obedience I will give you a place among these standing here!!!



While the whole world may be filled with betrayers constantly betraying. The kingdom of God, this church, will be filled with brothers clothing each others with Divine garments. Rising up out of the ashes to shine like the stars.

Divine clothing

- **Revelation 19:7–8 (NIV)**

⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad

and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,

and his bride has made herself ready.

⁸ Fine linen, bright and clean,

was given her to wear.”

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)

- The bible is clear, the divine clothing stands for the righteous acts of Gods people.
- Right action always follows genuine faith. We are not saying your righteous acts is what merits you salvation. But the right faith, will produce right action.

- **Genesis 3:21 (NIV)**

²¹ The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

- What man tried to cloth themselves with was not adequate. God must be the one to cloth your nakedness. When we expose sin, approach him with repentance, he will cloth is with garments made from him.
- And this is the foundation of our identity. We know it was not us, but him. We did not manipulate or deceive our way into Christ, but know in the deepest place, it was him who covered us.

- **Isaiah 61:10-11 (NIV)**

10 I delight greatly in the Lord;
my soul rejoices in my God.

For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 **For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,**
so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.

- Those who are divinely clothed are compared to a garden, which has seeds that are able to grow.
- When we look out at this body, there is a plethora of seeds. Seeds from this pulpit, from fathers to their families, from brothers and sisters to peers. We are at no lack of seed.
 - But those seeds land in different soils, and the soil determines the growth and potential of the seed.
 - Lets go to a parable of Jesus as we begin to close.

Parable of the four soils

- **Mark 4:14–20 (LSB)**

14 “The sower sows the word.

15 “And these are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown: **when they hear**, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.

16 “And in a similar way, these are the ones being sown on the rocky *places*: those who, when **hearing the word**, immediately **receive it with joy**;

17 and they have no root in themselves, but are *only* temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.

18 “And others are those being sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have **heard the word**,

19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for anything else enter in and choke the word, and it **becomes unfruitful**.

20 “And those are the ones which were sown on the good soil: they **who hear** the word and **accept it** and **are bearing fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.**”

You can see a progression in this parable's explanation.

Soil #1: Road: heard the word — glanced off of them and did not take root

Soil #2: Rocky: Heard and Received — took root but not enough to withstand the trouble that was caused by the word

Soil #3: Thorns: Heard the word and **becomes** unfruitful (implying reception of it) — Began to appear good, however other things grew alongside of the seed which choke it out.

Soil #4: Good soil: Heard, received, and bore fruit to completion

Take note that these soils were not an emotional condition of feeling. The condition of the soil is based on what they do in RESPONSE TO THE WORD.

And notice how 3 of the soils initially have a good response to the Word!

Don't you want to know what part you play? There are so many seeds of truth being sown in this body. And we can either look on as skeptical observers and question all development, or we can come alongside people as seeds are being sown, and help them remove the rocks, point out the thorns and weeds. So that lasting fruit can come fourth.

We will say it again, what you DO in response to the word is everything. So what action are the scriptures demanding for you this morning

- Some, its to recognize the filthy clothing you are currently wearing before God, and exchange it with sackcloth and ash's and allow the Lord to cloth you divinely.
 - And for others it is to take the responsibility up to divinely clothe your brothers!
- Some, to break up fallow ground, the rocky soil of your heart & your brothers hearts
 - What does this look like — last week
 - Confrontation with the word without equivocation.
- Some, remove the weeds and thorns (cares of this world and the deceitfulness of wealth, or the desires for **ANYTHING ELSE but the word**) so that good fruit can actually be produced.
 - What is growing up with your faith that doesn't belong. The longer it remains, the more you will look like it.
 - It must be cut off with repentance seen through your works.
 - How are you helping your brother in this?

The next righteous action is all that matters this morning. This morning we are not looking for simply sadness about sin, but follow through with righteous action according to the word.

CHARGE:

If you have been trying to cover up sin in this church and said nothing— repent! Come to the alter and break ties with covenant unfaithfulness, come out of darkness and into the light.

Men in this body, turn to your wives right now and prayerfully consider who you should pour into intentionally.

- Ephesians 4:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.