

Genesis 3:7-13

Genesis 3:7 – Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Genesis 2:25 - And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

- Something had changed
- Once their eyes were opened, innocence and security was lost
- Now they have feelings that they had never had before
- Their mindset had changed
- Now they feel guilt and shame when they are uncovered
- Why did they choose fig leaves?
- Who were they covering for?

Genesis 3:8 – And 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.

- The sound of God coming to be with them was nothing new
- But this time was different, this time they hid from His presence
- Notice that their attempt at covering themselves was not enough
- Simply covering certain areas of their bodies was inadequate
- Their desire now is to be completely removed from God's sight
- They want to be completely covered FROM God
- Their new instinct is now fear when God draws near to them
- Adam and Eve hide among the trees
- It's ironic, the abundant blessing that God had provided for them has now become what they use to shelter themselves from His very presence

Genesis 3:9 – But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, Where are you?

- The “you” is singular
- Does God not know where Adam is?
- “Where are you?” is a question Adam needed to ask himself
- Where are you in your relationship to God?
- Both the serpent and God start with questions
- The serpent's opening question “Did God actually say...?” was meant to draw them away from the light and into the darkness
- God's opening question, “Where are you?” is meant to draw them out of hiding in the darkness and into the light

Genesis 3:10 - And he said, I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.

- Adam didn't say "where" he was, he explained "why" he was hiding because he knew what God was asking
- The immediate effect of sin in Adam was that God's presence was unwelcome
- As sinners, man now has an impulse to put distance between them and whatever brings about guilt and shame
- Adam hid because he was uncovered and feels unprotected
- He realizes that he will experience the full punishment that he's due for his sin without anything to protect him

Genesis 3:11 - He said, Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?

- Adam now knew evil, and sin entered him. Sin causes guilt and shame because we know it's against God, so we try to get rid of it by denial and blaming others

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Genesis 3:12-13 - The man said, The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate. Then the Lord God said to the woman, What is this that you have done? The woman said, The serpent deceived me, and I ate.

- Notice Adam admits his sin, but not before blaming the woman and God first
- We do not want all of the punishment on us, so we try to soften the blow
- We admit to our sin, but not before putting other people in front of us to take some of the blame
- Adam failed to be the head, he failed to cover his wife
- To the sinner, God's holiness is not something we desire, it's what we run from

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- Is it good that we wear clothes and are covered? YES!
- **Romans 1** shows 3 repetitions of God giving sinners over to their desires
- Each time their sin shows that the person has run farther and farther from God
- **V.21-23** – They exchange the glory of God for the corruption of man
- When people reject truth, it becomes increasingly difficult for them to recognize and receive truth
- **V.24** – So God gives them up to their lustful thoughts and desires
- **V.25** – Man continues down this path and exchanges God's truth for a lie and starts worships creation rather than God
- **V.26-27** – So God gives them up to unnatural relations, homosexuality
- Unnatural means going against the way that God designed and made us

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- **V.28-31** – Finally God gives them over to a debased mind
- At first glance, this step seems out of place, shouldn't it be first?
- This is not talking about the initial contemplation of sin
- This is once sin is established and they start to justify that what they're doing is ok
- **V.32a.** - This is denying sin's sinfulness
- **V.32b.** - AND attempting to gain approval of others and ourselves
- This is the worst it gets, open nakedness with no shame
- This person has overcome normal, reasonable guilt and shame feelings
- A depraved mind cannot understand right and wrong, they don't desire a covering
- At this point I get conflicted, I'm excited to understand God's Word
- But it's heartbreaking, knowing that people all around me are so far from God
- I know so much and the society I live in is desperately far from God
- It's a helpless feeling and you know that you could be the same way as them

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- Although we want to avoid feelings of guilt and shame caused by our sin, we must understand that we need those feelings
- The reason we feel shame is because we still have a conscience and we still understand we are in rebellion against a real God
- Do you feel guilty of your sin? The closer you walk with God, the more sensitive and aware you become of your sin
- Do you feel ashamed of a sin you committed years ago?
- God has forgotten, but you haven't
- As Voddie Baucham says, "we have scar tissue." Christ forgives and removes your sins as far as the East is from the West, but we still have scars
- Adam lived for over 900 years, do you think he ever forgot about Eden?
- Having guilt and shame reminds us of God's goodness and how we used to be, and how God redeemed us from that

Genesis 3:8-13 – And 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...

- Our instinct now is to run and hide, thankfully, God comes seeking us
- 3 reasons why it's foolish to run from God

Psalms 139:7-12 - Where shall I go from your Spirit? **Or where shall I flee from your presence?** 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! 9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night, 12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

Genesis 3:8-13 – 3 reasons why it's foolish to run from God

1.) It's impossible to outrun Him

- Jonah tried
- **Jonah 1:1-3**
- **V.4-15** – the storm was so great, that experienced sailors feared for their lives
- There is a parallel passage in the Bible that I think we are supposed to think of when we read this

Matthew 8:23-27- And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. 24 And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. 25 And they went and woke him, saying, Save us, Lord; we are perishing. 26 And he said to them, Why are you afraid, O you of little faith? Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 And the men marveled, saying, What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?

Genesis 3:8-13 – 3 reasons why it's foolish to run from God

- The comparison is obvious
- The Lord is in control of everything
- He can either calm the waters of your life or He can stir them into a frenzy
- What He does depends on you
- If you are with Christ, and the storms come, and you cry out “Lord save me,” He will come to you and give you peace
- If you are running from God, hiding from Him, He is going to stir up the waves of the storm until you recognize you need Him
- Until you repent of your sin and turn to Him
- **Jonah 1:17-3:2**
- In the end, God's will, will be done
- **Jonah 3:4-5a.**

Genesis 3:8-13 – 3 reasons why it's foolish to run from God

2.) We increase our misery by running

- **Luke 15:11-19**
- It saddens us that not every case of someone running from God results in that person realizing how bad their sin is, causing them to cry out to God
- But it often does (there is hope)
- I bet every one of us has at least one person in mind right now (praying for)

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3.) God still loves and cares for you, even when you run

- **Hosea 1:1-3** – God tells Hosea to marry Gomer to provide an illustration of how He loves His unfaithful people
- God knows that Gomer would be unfaithful, but God wants to prove a point

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- So Hosea does what God asks
- **2:5** – Over time Gomer commits adultery and leaves Hosea for pleasure and material things she thought someone else would provide for her
- Her life goes on a downward spiral as she keeps getting further from God
- Just like Jonah, prodigal son
- **2:6-7a.** – Gomer goes through many lovers trying to find someone that will provide for her
- The thought behind these verses is that Gomer is going from man to man, and each man is less and less able to care of her
- **V.8** – All along God is in the background, making sure she is cared for

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3.) God still loves and cares for you, even when you run

- Would we ever love someone like that?
- Would we let our wife run off and love other men, and then when her life is destroyed, go and make sure she is provided for?
- But this is the way God is with us
- We run from His love and all that He's provided for us, yet He still pursues us
- **Hosea 3:1-2** – In the end, Hosea has to go and buy Gomer out of slavery, as an illustration of what Jesus has done for us
- Redemption means “to buy out of”

Where Are You?

- Promise to the Unbeliever
- Running from God – there is hope for them
- Believer – know that you are covered

