

March 7, 2010 AM

Pre-Easter

THE PROMISE

The Curse Of Sin And Cross Of The Savior

Genesis 3:7-15;21

Adam and Eve were about to discover the eternally fixed law of God; Galatians 6:7 ... ***“Be not deceived, God is not mocked. For whatsoever a man soweth he should also reap.”*** We no longer fear sin, but we ought to as a coiled snake ready to strike us with its venomous poison of death.

An old preacher used to say:

“Sin will take you further than you want to go; sin will keep you longer than you want to stay; sin will cost you more than you want to pay.”

We are unafraid of sin because we think we can dabble in it, dart in and out of it, and never be effected by it. I pray that today as we begin these pre-Easter sermons you will see the hellish, hurtful way of sin!

I. Their sin turned to shame.

“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”

(Genesis 3:7)

A. Why did they now see themselves as naked?

1. Because they had been clothed with the glory of God & light.

***NOTE** Did you know God is dressed?

“O Lord my God, you are very great; you are clothed with honor and majesty, who covers yourself with light as a garment...” (Ps. 104:1-2)

When Jesus was transfigured, ***“His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.” (Mark 9:3)*** In Psalm 8 the Bible says when God created man He crowned him with glory and honor.

B. When man sinned, God’s glory departed.

1. We don’t see man as God created him.
2. We see fallen man. God’s glory has left; we are exposed.

Genesis 2:22 says they were not ashamed but seeing their nakedness they were ashamed. Thank God for that. I pray if you are a sinner you are ashamed of that sin. There is hope for you as there was for this guilty pair. ***“And I said: ‘O my God, I am too ashamed and humiliated (blush) to lift up my face to You, my God; for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has grown up to the heavens.’” (Ezra 9:6)*** The priest was ashamed over sin.

- Many do not feel a sense of shame.

“Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time I punish them, they shall be cast down,” says the Lord. I feel shame.” (Jeremiah 6:15) Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not ashamed; nor did they know how to blush... We live in a culture of unblushables. They have lost a sense of shame.

The downward spiral of sin:

- I feel shame.
- I don’t feel shame – “calloused conscience.”
- I glory in my shame.

“For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.” (Phil. 3:18-19)

They glory in the shameful things they do. That's the last step; their end is destruction!! They are laughing their way into hell. Everyone is coming out of their closets with pride! Sins that had to slink down the back alleys are paraded down main street.

- I pray to God you have a sense of shame over sin.

II. Their shame gave way to guilt.

“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.” (Gen. 3:7)

The mockery (this hypocrisy) of trying to cover sin with manmade garments. ***“The eyes of almighty God before whose lives are open and naked.”*** The Bible says, oh that we would be honest of our hypocrisy.

1. The works of their own hands.

“...not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit...” (Titus 3:5)

2. Your fig leaves can't cover your guilt.

III. Their shame led to separation from God.

“And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.” (Genesis 3:8)

A. Sin had driven a wedge between man and God.

1. At first they might have been proud of their work.
2. Adam might have said, “Eve, green is your color. You are hot!”
Eve might have loved his suit.
3. Man is proud of religion until he faces God in God's serenity.
4. They were separated spiritually from God but not physically.

B. In God's light the fig leaves withered.

1. The all-seeing eye of God.
2. Satan is so happy. His goal was to drive a wedge between man and God, to get man to fear God's goodness and doubt God's care.

NOTE/WARNING** They are running from their God, hiding from Him just like some in this room are doing today. You think God is an enemy and you're afraid of God. ***"But you're iniquities have separated you from God and your sins have hidden His face from you." (Isaiah 59:2)

IV. Their separation led to seeking.

"Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, 'Where are you?'" (Genesis 3:9)

A. It was God seeking Adam, not Adam seeking God.

1. You would have thought Adam would have been crying out to God. "Oh God come; have mercy on me O Lord!"
2. No, he ran to hide from God.

B. We love God because He first loved us.

"There is none that seeks God, no not one." (Romans 3:11)

1. God seeks the sinner in love and grace.
2. He does not come in the garden as a police officer, but the voice of a brokenhearted father. Jesus leaves the 99 to go out to find the one who has gone astray.
3. God is seeking the lost today.

"Jesus came to seek and save those who are lost." (Luke 19:10)

God is seeking you today! God is calling out to you!

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. (Revelations 3:20)

4. God longs to save you, not scorn you.

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8)

NOTE** God will not always seek you. When you pass the point when you no longer can blush over your sin, your heart can become so hard you no longer feel God’s knock on your door. ***“My spirit will not always strive with a man.” (Genesis 6:3) Paul says in Romans, God will give a man up to his own wicked heart. Before God gives a man up, man gives himself over to lewdness. ***“...who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.” (Ephesians 4:19)***

“Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts...” (Ps. 95) Don’t let the day of opportunity pass! God seeks but one day it will be His last knock!

V. God’s seeking turned to searching.

“Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, ‘Where are you?’¹⁰ So he said, ‘I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.’¹¹ And He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?’¹² Then the man said, ‘The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.’¹³ And the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’” (Genesis 3:9-13)

A. God did not need information.

1. Adam had to see he was away from God.
2. Adam would not take his guilt.
3. Adam actually blamed God, the woman and the serpent.

4. When facing sin, man wants an alibi.
 - I am ill, not evil.
 - I am sick, but not sinful.
 - I am weak, but not evil.
5. No one is acknowledging their transgression and saying, “My sin is ever before me.”
6. God wants their sin exposed.

B. God wanted them to be honest about their sin.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts, see if there be any wicked way in me and lead me to the way everlasting!” (Psalm 139:23)

1. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.
2. Jesus says, “Whosoever will let him come.” But you must come.

“He who covers his sin shall not prosper, but if we confess our sin we will have mercy.”

3. Until you acknowledge your sin before God you can never know God’s mercy and saving grace.

VI. The searching leads to a Savior. (Genesis 3:14-15)

A. The promised judgment for the devil.

1. There is no redemption for him.
2. Satan runs nothing. He will be the first in hell.
3. Those who follow Satan Jesus called a generation of vapors.

B. The promise of the coming Messiah.

1. A battle is prophesied. God declared war on sin & Satan. The word enmity means “warfare.” It is a spiritual fight to the death

with Satan. God is declaring war on Satan. The battle is going on right here in this room today.

2. A birth is prophesied. The seed for a child comes from the man. The egg for fertilization is in the woman. But here it says “the seed of the woman.” What’s that? “The virgin birth of the Messiah.” God was going to become man. He would be a sinless substitute to die in our place. John said, **“Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”**
3. A bruising is prophesied. Satan would bruise the heel of the Messiah. The serpent strikes his heel on the cross. “Him who knew no sin became sin for us.” He was wounded for our transgression and bruised for our iniquity. Who was? Jesus took the venom of sin for us.

But ... “Jesus will crush the head of Satan.” That’s the second coming. We have prophesied both Jesus’ 1st & 2nd coming. His incarnation and his coronation. **“And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.” (Romans 16:20)** That time is nearer than we might believe.

VII. The Savior’s death pictured.

A. The blood atonement is the only way to deal with sin.

“Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.” (Genesis 3:21)

1. It was God’s idea.
2. John said that the lamb slain was the cure from the foundation of the world. (Rev. 13:8)

B. God took it upon Himself to cover the guilty pair.

1. Adam & Eve wore a robe of glory.
2. In sin they wore a robe of guilt.
3. Because of God’s love they wore a robe of grace.