

The Ironic Revelation of God's Glory: Son of Promised Mercy

Genesis 3:14–21

December 1, 2013

Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Introduction

A. Children's Sermon

1. Why did God **make** you and all things?

Revelation 4:11

“**Worthy** are you, our Lord and God, *to receive glory* and honor and power, *for you created all things*, and by your will they existed and were created.”

2. More glory...

Jeremiah 9:23–24

²³ Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord *who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness* in the earth. **For in these things I delight**, declares the Lord.”

Key Idea

The story of human history displays God's glory; not only the obvious glory of God's creative power but also the surprising and wondrous glory of God's steadfast love toward sinners!

B. Irony (The New Oxford American Dictionary)

Definition: “the expression of one's meaning by using language that normally signifies the opposite, typically for humorous or emphatic effect: e.g. ‘Don't go overboard with the gratitude’”

“At Christmastime, we are privileged to reflect on how God in His wisdom has taken human sophistication..., and folded it back over itself, turning everything around. The first Christmas was the time in history when God began announcing His mastery of irony— and it is also the time when the worldly wise began their fruitless attempts to studiously ignore what He was doing. And in

this attempt, they shut themselves off from that laughter that William Tyndale described as coming from the ‘low bottom of the heart.’”¹

II. Christmas was not God’s First Surprise

A. God’s Purpose for Creation Defied

Genesis 2:16–17

¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, *for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*”

Genesis 3:6–7

⁶ So *when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise*, she took of its fruit and ate, and *she also gave some to her husband who was with her*, and he ate.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.

B. God Seeks for Sinners!

Genesis 3:9, 11–13

⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “*Where are you?*” ... (I hid...)

¹¹ He said, “*Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?*”¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”¹³ 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.”

III. The Glorious, Surprising Steadfast Love of God

¹ Wilson, Douglas (2012-11-16). God Rest Ye Merry: Why Christmas is the Foundation for Everything (Kindle Locations 88-93). . Kindle Edition.

A. The Surprising Salvation Promised

Genesis 3:14–15

¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ *I will put enmity between **you** and the **woman**, and between your **offspring** and her **offspring**; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*”

B. A Life that Requires Faith in the Promise

1. Pain in Childbirth & Marriage
2. Pain in Labor
3. Death

C. Faith and another Promise of Mercy

Genesis 3:21

²⁰ The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹ And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. (Rev. 3:17–21)

D. Mercy Hoped For

Genesis 5:28–29

²⁸ When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son ²⁹ and called his name *Noah* (Rest), saying, “*Out of the ground that the Lord has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the **painful toil** of our hands.*”

IV. The Glorious, Surprising Steadfast Love of God More Certain

A. Salvation Accomplished & Applied

Romans 5:1–5

¹ Therefore, **since** we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering

produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces **character**, and **character** produces **hope**, ⁵ and **hope** *does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.*

B. The New Song in Heaven

Revelation 5:11–12

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice, “*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!*”

Key Idea

God's brightest glory is displayed in his powerful mercy and grace that has justly redeemed his people from the clutches of sin and death!