

July 16, 2023

“Accountability for Sin” Genesis 3:9-15

Prel Rmks

We are looking at the origin of sin and its original effect on mankind.

“The fall of man” – man fell from his original state of righteousness and communion with God.

Last week we saw how the tempter, Satan, deceived Eve into disobeying the one command that God given at that point ... sin entered the human race...

“Original Sin” – next Sunday

In our text today, we will see how God went to Adam and Eve and pursued them, and confronted them, and held them accountable for their sin.

LOGW ~ title

(8) 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.

(9) 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."

(14) So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You *are* cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. **(15)** And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

INTRO

Immediately after Adam and Eve sinned they recognized something had changed:

- For the first time, they experienced a sense of guilt and shame – they realized they were naked.
- For the first time they didn't want to face God or be in His presence.
- They lost their innocence. They knew evil for the first time, and they knew they had done evil by rebelling against God.
- They didn't want to own up to what they had done.
- Instead of feeling safe and loved by God when they thought about being with Him, they felt a new sense of fear at the thought of being in His presence.
- They tried to cover their nakedness with fig leaves.
- They tried to hide from God.
- Their entire lives and future existence were changed in a moment.

But God didn't abandon them. A short time later:

(8) And they heard the sound of the LORD God Jehovah Elohim 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.

(9) Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

God came into the garden pursuing them, calling out to them, seeking to restore the broken relationship and reconcile them to Himself.

"Where are you?"

- God didn't ask because he needed information, or because He didn't know ...
- It is a ? of personal accountability = "give an account of yourself". It's a question about more than location...spiritual condition

It is a great Bible question that we should let God's Word ask us today:

- Where are we in our relationship with God today? In our walk ...
- Where are we in our Christian growth?
- Where are we as far as the direction of our lives is concerned?
- Where are we regarding sin in our lives?

God comes to us today and calls out to us and asks, "Where are you?" It's a question that examines our lives, and how we answer that question tells us where we are spiritually. How do you answer that question today?

Outline:

God Confronted Adam and Eve

God Cursed the Serpent – in that curse a prophecy of great blessing!

I. God Confronted Adam and Eve 10-13

God here held Adam and Eve accountable for their sin.

If they had any thought that they could sin and get away with it ...

Numbers 32:23 – “ ... be sure your sin will find you out.”

Adam

(10) So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

- physical presence of God ... Christophany
- sadness – afraid of God
- he had been naked every other time ...
- hiding from God – impossible:
 - **Psalms 139:7-12** Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? **(8)** If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, 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 fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; **(12)** Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, *But* the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light *are* both alike *to You*.

It's what mankind tries to do ... preoccupied ... busy ... distracted = “If I don’t think about God, it’s like He’s not there.” ... Ah, but He is there. He sees all. He knows all.

We need to remember like David in that Psalm – we cannot hide from God. We cannot escape our accountability to Him!

(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?"

- Again, God knew ... God knows everything all the time!

Next, in v. 12, Adam wins the man of the year award:

(12) Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

- He admits what he did, but ... he blames Eve and God

- “Man needs 4 things in life: air to breathe, food to eat, something to drink, and someone to blame.” ~ that’s what men & women do ...

Adam didn’t take responsibility for his sin ...

So God turns to Eve

(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."

Eve takes a cue from her spiritual leader ...

God’s whole purpose was to get A & E to own up to what they had done – to get them to take responsibility for their sin – to get them to see confess their sin and to see where they were spiritually in their relationship with Him.

It was also to let them know they were accountable to Him for their sin.

1. We are each accountable to God for our lives and our sin.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Romans 14:12 So then each of us shall give account **of himself** to God.

1 John 1:8-10 If we say that we have **no sin**, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **(9)** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **(10)** If we say that we have **not sinned**, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

2. Every sin we commit must be accounted for on God’s ledger.

- No one ever gets away with anything.
- No sin we ever commit will escape the attention of God
- No sin we ever commit will go unpunished.
- Our sin, all of it, must be accounted for and punished by Christ’s death on the cross, or we will be accountable for it one day when we stand before God and we will be punished for it with everlasting punishment in the lake of fire!

II. God Cursed the Serpent 14-15

(14) So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You *are* cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. (15) And I will put enmity hostility, hatred Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

- **Romans 8:20-22** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; (21) because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (22) For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.
- enmity between serpents and humans
- He shall bruise ... prophecy = Proto-evangelium = first Gospel
 - **Hebrews 2:14-15** Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, (15) and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.
 - **Revelation 20:10** The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Conclusion

We must never think that God didn't know whether Adam and Eve would sin ...

To manifest His glory.

Isn't it just like our God of mercy and grace to already have the plan in place for our redemption ... **2 Corinthians 5:19** that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

If we came here today looking for the main reason to worship God ... we find it right there in that verse. We are sinners, yes, but in Christ we are redeemed sinners. Have you been redeemed by God through His Son ...