

# God says, “Where Are You Hiding?”

Genesis 3:7-13

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## Introduction:

If you were with us two weeks ago, you know that in our sermon series from Genesis we came to chapter 3 where we are told about the fall of the human race.

- In particular, we looked at how the serpent lured Adam and Eve into transgression by getting them to question God’s word and then by enticing them with ambition...
  - the intoxicating ambition that they would be like God—
    - not as they were meant to be *like God*—as His image...
    - but *like God* as the one who makes the decisions about what is to be done and what is not to be done.
    - We saw how once they were intoxicated with this dream, they rushed headlong into the transgression.
- The fall is something that is very relevant to every human being because when Adam fell into transgression, we were all with him in a sense.
  - He represented the whole human race and therefore acted and spoke for all of us who were to be born of him.
  - We are in rebellion today because we sinned in him and fell with him in his first transgression.
    - It is because of this our corporate transgression that we all die and that the world is cursed and in need of salvation.
      - We are going to see more about the consequences of our sin in future sermons...
- But this week, we are going to look at another consequence of our transgression—
  - The shame and the guilt of it.
  - Actually, we already looked at this to some extent in that we explored how the fall brought us from being...
    - naked and unashamed...
      - to being clothed (by our own devices) and yet ashamed...
    - And how only in Christ can we be clothed so as not to be ashamed—clothed by His righteousness.
- But this week I want to explore how we deal with the shame and guilt...
  - I want to show you how Adam and Eve wrongly dealt with it so that we can see how we so often wrongly deal with it—
    - I want to show you how foolish it is to deal with our shame and guilt that way and to urge you not to deal with it that way...
    - And I want to show you how God graciously comes to us to help us deal with it the way we should,
    - And I want to urge you deal with it the way you should...
      - because it is just no good to deal with it the way they did.

Let's go to our text—Genesis 3.

- I will read verses 1-19, although my text is from verse 7 to verse 13.
- Give heed to God's Word, beginning at Genesis 3:1:

**Genesis 3:1-19:** Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"<sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; <sup>3</sup> but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"<sup>4</sup> Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."<sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where *are* you?"<sup>10</sup> So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."<sup>11</sup> 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?"<sup>12</sup> Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."<sup>13</sup> And the LORD God said to the woman, "What *is* this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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."<sup>16</sup> To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire *shall be* for your husband, and he shall rule over you."<sup>17</sup> Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed *is* the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat *of* it all the days of your life. <sup>18</sup> Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. <sup>19</sup> In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you *are*, and to dust you shall return."

May the Lord bless to us the hearing of His holy Word.

## **I. We know that we are transgressors; that is why we hide from God.**

A. Every one of you knows that you are a transgressor—

1. In our text, you can see that Adam and Eve knew that they were transgressors and they did not want to be exposed.
  - a. First, we are told that as soon as Adam and Eve had sinned, they realized that their sin would be seen by God:
    - **Gen 3:7:** "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked;

- That this consciousness of their *nakedness* was more than knowing they had no clothes on is clear...
    - They knew factually that they had no clothes on before, but the change is that now they are disturbed by this.
  - They were just as unclothed at the end of chapter 2 as they are now, but then they were naked and not ashamed.
    - The only thing that has changed is that they have transgressed God's commandment and now it is not pleasant to be naked and open before God...
      - Before, they shone with His glory as His image bearers, but now they are no longer fit to be seen.
      - Their glory as those who could reproduce image bearers of God is not lost and they are particularly ashamed of their reproductive organs.
      - Before it was fine to be exposed before God, but now it is the last thing they want!
- b. Adam makes it clear that he was concerned about being exposed to God when he testifies in verse 10:
- **Gen 3:10: "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."**
  - He knows that he has become that which is unacceptable before God and a reproducer of what is unacceptable before God.
    - He who was created to be fruitful and multiply is now a tree that can only produce bad fruit.
2. This is something we all know.
- a. Be honest about this—you know that you are sinner before God.
- You know even about your original sin—that you are not what you ought to be before God even if you have done no specific sins.
  - You know that there is something wrong with the entire human race—we are not what we should be before God...
  - It is something we could all wish was not true...
- b. You also know that you have done specific things that you ought not to have done.
- You would hate to have all that you have ever done and all that you have ever thought exposed before the world...
    - and even worse, you would hate to come before God and have to face what you have done and what you really are before Him.
    - There is a lot of shame.
  - Romans 1 explains that even those whom God has turned over to a debased mind—so that they bury themselves in sin—know that they are wrong...

- **Rom 1:28-32: And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.**
- You see that even though they approve of sin, they still know that they are guilty and that their deeds are shameful.
  - They often deny it, but they know.
  - When you speak the truth to them, their conscience is on your side, and that is why they often angry—you are exposing them.
- c. Even people who try to deny that sin is wrong show that they really know better when they accuse other people of sin.
  - Even those who do not have God’s law in a written form can still often discern when wrong has been done...
    - **Romans 2:15 says that they “show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them.”**
  - If they recognise sin in others, then surely, beneath all their evasions, they recognise it in themselves.
    - Everybody does and that means that all of you do too.
    - You know that you are a sinner and you know when you commit particular sins—
      - And because you know this, you experience shame.
      - Like Adam and Eve, you know that you are naked before God and you want to hide from Him.
        - You don’t want to come before Him honestly because you don’t want to be exposed.
- B. There are all sorts of ways we try to keep our sin from being exposed.
  - Our efforts are really quite pathetic and quite futile.
  - 1. We have seen what Adam and Eve did initially—
    - They sewed fig leaves together and then they hid in the bushes.
      - Did they really think this would keep God from seeing their sin?
      - Did they not know that we are all naked and open before the eyes of Him to whom we must all give an account?
        - If anything, their fig leaves drew all the more attention to their sin.
  - 2. What are some of the things you do to hide?
    - a. Do you go into deeper levels of sin?

- Really! You will say no—but don't you do that?
- Do you know that, as odd as it may seem, a lot of people sin in more and more outrageous ways to divert themselves from facing their sin.
- Take something like pornography or sodomy...
  - Some who engage in it are not even that attracted to the thing itself...
  - The attraction is that it is a way to avoid facing themselves—a way of escaping into the bushes...of getting away...
    - and when that is the case, you will indulge more and more in it.
  - This can be done with drugs and alcohol and even with compulsive shopping!

TRANS> What else might you do?

- b. Do you try to avoid facing what you are before God by hiding in activities... using them to distract you from God...
  - Maybe you use Facebook to divert you...
  - Maybe movies and media...or sports...or music and art...video games, education, study of philosophy...all so you don't have to face the corruption that is in you...
  - Some of these things can be used to seek God, but they can also be used to try to avoid Him and to forget Him.
- c. Perhaps you go on quests...
  - Maybe it is the pursuit of romance or authentic relationship...
  - Or some kind of self-improvement—to be the best whatever—to identify yourself by your skill and never face your depravity...
  - Or to get rich or even to do something noble like helping the poor—
    - but all done as a diversion to keep you from facing what you are before God.
    - All done without a Sabbath in which you truly present yourself before God and examine yourself by His word.
      - That is what keeps you from church and from truly meaningful daily worship and communion with God.
- d. Perhaps you try to laugh your shame away...
  - You are always trying to be funny or always looking for laughs or pulling pranks—your goal is to make life into a joke...
    - We saw a chap like that when we studied Ecclesiastes.
    - Maybe you are just looking for frivolity all the time.
- e. Maybe you try to hide your sin by being better than others...morally superior...
  - You paint your corrupt self with golden paint and then polish it up.

- Perhaps you are a legalist who rigidly follows rules and judges those who don't...all so you won't have to look beneath the surface and see your own wickedness...
  - Or the opposite—maybe you are someone who tolerates everything and supposes that means you don't need to look at your own sins either...if everyone else's wickedness is okay, so is yours!
    - This is a huge thing in our society...
  - Or maybe you are into religion—lighting candles, going on pilgrimages, fasting, saying prayers, following rituals and making sacrifices...using all these as fig leaves to hide from God...
    - Everyone thinks you are religious, but in fact you are avoiding God.
  - Or maybe you shape your identity as the guy who knows the most theology—some of the most ungodly people I know know the most theology...
- f. And then there are those who magnify life's problems so as not to ever have to face themselves...
- They become addicted to fear—feeding their fears—feeding their worries so that they are consumed by them.
    - I have known people who were like that because they were cheating on their taxes or something...
    - The fear became the focus instead of facing the sin.
  - Or maybe it is by focusing on all the wrongs that have been done to you and talking about them all the time and magnifying them.
    - You know, assuming victim status as people say.
    - You feel sorry for people that have been abused, but they make it ten times worse when they use that to excuse their sin and to keep them from going on.
    - Those who are like this often have a critical spirit...
      - They are always magnifying the wrongs that others have done to them so that they can feel justified in their coldness toward them.
3. Just think about how pitiful all this hiding is...
- You are sitting there in the bushes with your fig leaves on because you want to be covered, but you know that you are not really covered at all...
  - You know God is not fooled by such things, but you go on with it!
  - You have no better option.

TRANS> We have all done our share of hiding and we all continue to do it...

- I mean, as soon as we have sinned, we ought to go directly to God with it—we ought to go and confess it to Him as soon as our conscience bites us...
  - but we don't—instead we run and hide.
- But let me show you what our gracious God does when you hide!

## II. When you hide, our gracious God comes to you to expose you!

### A. His coming is described in verse 8 & 9:

- verse 8 says:
  - **Gen 3:8: 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.**
- 1. We are not told of the manner of His coming, and there are very different views about this...
  - Our version says that Adam and Eve heard Him walking in the garden in the cool of the day...
    - That is a valid translation—the Hebrew literally says in the wind of the day...
    - This is also the traditional way it has been understood.
  - But there are some expositors who see this as nothing like a gentle stroll, but rather as coming like a whirlwind—in a violent terrifying storm...
    - The language can be understood that way...
    - This is the way God came to His people at Sinai after He delivered them out of Egypt—that they might fear Him and realize that He is not to be trifled with.
  - As I looked at the different views, I came to the conclusion that it does not matter how God comes when He comes to expose our sin and guilt...
    - The point is that comes to shake us out of our hiding places.
    - He comes in different ways, and no matter what the way is,
      - we are going to be terrified!—
      - we are going to want to run and hide!
    - This is what makes people want to kill the prophets and preachers who speak God’s word—
      - It doesn’t matter if the prophets are very gentle or very aggressive...
      - When we are guilty, we are terrified of the exposure and it always seems very aggressive and disturbing.
        - I think of the men who listened to Stephen and could not answer what he said, so they plugged up their ears and ran at him with violence.
          - That is one way of putting on our fig leaves and hiding when God comes to speak to us.
          - It is a way to avoid exposure.
  - 2. But you see that God persists in coming to us—He did not go away when Adam was hiding...nor does He go away when you are hiding...
    - a. He searches us out from our hidey hole!
      - You see in verse 9 that He comes and He says,

- “Where are you?” He causes us to hear His voice...
- **v. 9: Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?”**
- Isn’t that wonderful?
  - It is His grace to come and expose your sin!
  - Don’t get upset with Him for that—I know it’s upsetting—but be thankful!
    - You would never face your transgression if He did not come to you.
    - You would just go on in your sin and never deal with it, never face it for what it is!
- b. This is the true picture of what we are like!
  - We often like to think that we are seeking God and that He is hard to find, but the truth is that He pursues us and we try to avoid Him!
    - Romans 3 tells us that there is none that seeks after God, no not one—and that includes you!
  - Oh yes, there are times when we can say that we have sought God...
    - but if the truth be told, the only reason we are ever found to be seeking Him is because He came to us first to stir us up to seek Him—by exposing us and presenting to us His promise of mercy.
  - We are all like Adam and Eve until God searches us out—
    - We all want to run and hide...so how glad we ought to be that He sticks with it!

B. How does He do it? How does He come to us when we are hiding?

1. First, as we have seen, He comes and He calls out to Adam with the question, **“Where are you?”**
  - a. He does this by the working of His Holy Spirit.
    - Jesus said that the Holy Spirit is the one who “convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgement.
      - He uses scripture and He uses other people and your own conscience, and He exposes you by making you think about what you are doing.
    - He presses the question on you...where are you?
      - As a human being—you ought to be walking with God...that is where you belong...
        - But you are not—so where are you?
        - Where are you since you are not going to God?
        - He awakens you to the reality that you are hiding.
  - b. So this is a good question that God brings to you when you are trying to hide... *Where are you?*



- It forces you to face how silly it is for you to be hiding as you are—behind whatever you are hiding behind—work, porn, entertainment, a critical spirit toward others...whatever it is...
- *Where are you? What are you doing?*
  - It does us so much good to really face that question!
    - *What are your fig leaves?*
- c. Some of you might say, “God has never asked me that question.”
  - But I want to tell you that He is asking you that question right now!
    - He sent me to preach His word and in His name I am asking you, “Where are you?”
    - Are you trying to hide from the Almighty who sees everything?
      - Why are you doing that?
      - Why are you afraid of Him?
      - Why are you running from the one you cannot hide from?
  - He has sent me to ask you that question today...
    - And you need to deal with it—it is His question, not mine!
    - He by His Holy Spirit penetrates into you to ask you that question.
      - He uses preachers, He uses the scripture, He uses friends and co-workers and spouses and parents...
      - He even uses chastisement to alert you that you are running from Him—the troubles of life—
        - He is back of them all, and He is asking you why you are running from Him.
  - d. If you are honest, you will answer as Adam did...
    - **Gen 3:10: “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.”**
    - If you are not with God, it is because you know that you are naked and you don’t want to be exposed—you are afraid of Him.
      - If not for that, we would be delighted to be near God—it would be our highest of joys to have communion with Him!
      - We would run to Him—that is how it ought to be—but we are guilty so we are off hiding...
- But I want you to see how God goes a step farther to get Adam to face his transgression...
- 2. God asks Adam (and us) two questions to expose our specific transgression...
  - First, in Gen 3:11, he asks:
    - **Gen 3:11: “Who told you that you were naked? “**
  - a. The words, “Who told you that you were naked?” are interesting...
    - Nobody had told him...but you see, he knew!

- Adam and his wife are hiding and running because they know that they have transgressed!
  - When you commit a specific sin, nobody really has to tell you that—you know it!
    - But it has to be drawn out of you.
    - You know that you have sinned and are exposed before God, but you have not come to God to repent—you have been running...
    - You knew all along that you did wrong, but you did not come.
- b. And now the LORD asks him specifically if he ate of the tree—in the second part of verse 11:
- **Gen 3:11: “Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?”**
  - He does this so that you might own up to what you have done—specifically—not just to say that “I am a sinner...”
    - but to say, “I ate from the tree.” or whatever you have done...
      - “I lied, I lusted, I neglected my wife, I cheated on my husband, I followed idols, I have not been thankful to you, I was sinfully angry, I am bitter...”
      - The LORD does this that you might face what you have done!
- c. I think you know how Adam responds—we will examine his response in a moment....
- But for now just look at the facts—he informs the Lord that he ate because the woman gave him of the tree and he ate...
- So someone else is involved...and God does the very same thing with her...
3. He speaks so as to get the woman to face what she has done...
- He asks the penetrating question,
    - **Gen 3:12: “What is this that you have done!”**
- a. That is a question that causes us to face the horror of what we have done.
- Here is Eve—she was given to the man to be a blessing and help to him...
    - but what is this? What has she done instead?
    - It was highly destructive, it was very wicked, it was in direct disobedience to God’s command, it was destructive to the whole human race, it was opposite to what she should have done.
- b. This question belongs to Adam as much as to Eve—and to all of us who are in the transgression...
- **What have you done?**
    - You have severed your relationship with God!
    - You have gone your own way!
    - You have injured others!
  - You need to think about what you have done and face it...
    - God is doing this in love and mercy so that you will deal with your sin.

TRANS> He is so kind to do this.

- He could have left us, but He did not...
- It reminds me of how he came to David after he had committed adultery and then had tried to hide it...for almost a year...
  - David was miserable.
    - In Ps 32 3-4, he tells us so...
      - **Psalm 32:3-4: When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer.**
  - In His grace, the Lord sent Nathan the prophet to David...
  - David never would have faced it if God had not come to him and said,
    - “Where are you? Did you take another man’s wife? What is this that you have done?”
- My brothers and sisters, own up to what you have done for what it really is! Submit to God’s searchlight! Let it expose you!
  - How glad David was when he finally admitted his sin and stopped trying to hide.
    - **Ps 32:5: I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

### III. How you respond to God’s probing questions is crucial!

A. Adam and Eve did not respond well—at least, not at this time!

- You must not do as they did—their example is a bad example and not something you should imitate!
- 1. Adam’s response is that of a man who blames God for his sin.
  - a. He shows that he is still not really facing up to what he has done because instead of simple confession, he says:
    - **Gen 3:12: “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.”**
      - He blames Eve, but even worse, he blames God—*the woman whom you gave to be with me.*
    - This shows that Adam is still trying to hide rather than face his sin.
      - He is trying to lessen the wicked thing that he did by saying that God put him into a place that caused him to sin.
    - What! It was a test for him to show God his love and commitment!
      - He has sinned against the most high God and instead of being crushed by that, he tries to blame God!
      - He has effectively murdered the entire human race and all he can say is, “the woman you gave me.”

- He has directly disobeyed God and called Him a liar, and all he can say is, “the woman you gave me.”
  - He has shown discontentment with God almighty, he has believed a lie, he has broken God’s covenant, he has gone into blatant rebellion and tried to push God off of his throne, he has joined himself and his posterity to Satan, and all he can say is:
    - “the woman you gave to be with me....”
- b. This is one of the ways that many, many, people hide that I waited to mention until now...that you blame God!
- 1) I am a pervert because You let my uncle molest me when I was a child.
  - 2) I committed adultery because the wife You gave me is not affectionate toward me.
  - 3) I stole because You did not provide a good enough job for me.
  - 4) I will not respect my husband because the husband You gave me is not respectable and does not treat me that way I want him to.
  - 5) I yell at my children because You gave me a mother who did not love me when I was child and she yelled at me.
- c. So many people are bitter toward God.
- Are you?
  - Are you able to really confess your sin without throwing blame at God—or at somebody else?
2. You see that Eve does essentially the same thing...
- a. She follows her husband’s example and blames the serpent...
    - It is the old line, “The Devil made me do it.”
  - b. But that is just not true...
    - Yes, the woman was deceived, but that is no excuse—
      - The only reason that she was deceived is because she wanted to be deceived.
      - Nobody can lead you into sin unless you want to be lead into sin.
    - You see a woman flirting and being seductive...
      - And then she says, “I was seduced.”
      - She was seduced because she wanted to be seduced.
  - c. People today are always acting like sin is something that they are driven to do—something they cannot help but do...
    - Sexual sins of all kind are excused in this way—
      - be it a young man explaining his behaviour with his girlfriend
      - or a woman who left her husband for a woman lover...
      - or a child molester...

- Angry responses and paralysing anxiety and drunkenness are likewise excused—
  - A person says, I cannot help it—it just takes me over.
    - It may feel that way, but the truth is that you are still responsible and you need to face up to what you are doing.

B. Look at what the LORD does when He gets a response like Adam and Eve's!

1. In both cases, He, the majestic judge of the universe, does not argue with them.
  - He simply leaves them—
    - He has graciously confronted them and sought to get them to own up to their sin, but He is not going to debate with them.
    - He leaves them with their foolish words...
      - and turns from Adam to Eve and from Eve to the serpent.
2. And then He pronounces His judgement upon them...He tells them what the consequences of their sin will be.
  - We will look at this next week, Lord willing, and we will see how grace is laced through His judgements against Adam and Eve.
  - But you see, it is powerful, the way He leaves them even though their confession is not complete...
    - They should have simply confessed and repented—but they were not ready.
    - They do not understand the mercy of God because it is has not yet been revealed to them.
    - Until they see the promise of mercy and forgiveness, they cannot bear to own their sin—even though they ought to.

C. But what about you?

1. Will you confess your sin? Will you really own it? Will you see it for what it really is and repent of it?
  - It is your duty to do so!
  - Whenever you transgress, it is your duty and your good sense to just go on and admit it—own up to it—knock off the excuses and the evasions and the justifications...
    - and just say, “Have mercy on me, a sinner!”
2. You have all the more reason to do this because God has fully revealed His mercy to us in Christ...
  - He has shown us that there is forgiveness with Him if we will come to Him—forgiveness without question!
  - God has sent His very own Son to die for our sins.
3. I tell you, you should confess and repent as soon as you transgress...
  - You know that you have done wrong—so why go through the fig leaf thing?
    - Just come to the LORD with honesty and repentance.

- And all the more if He has graciously come to you to call you to repentance...
  - If He sees that you are hiding and comes to you to say, “Where are you?” and then “Did you sin against me?” and then “What is this that you have done?”
  - If He has brought His word to you through a friend or through some other means,
    - Don’t keep on making excuses—deal with it! Admit it!
    - How good it is of Him to come to you when you are the one who did wrong and even ran away when you saw Him coming!
      - The worst thing you can do is turn and start blaming Him for your sin!
      - No—He has come in mercy to set you free—to restore you—to pardon you!
        - Don’t be an idiot!
        - Don’t hold on to sin that destroys you just because of foolish pride!
- 4. Now maybe there is someone here who has never repented of your sin at all!
  - Maybe you have been hiding from God all your life.
    - You have never faced the simple fact that you are a transgressor and you are full of excuses and blame shifting to excuse yourself.
  - Well you need to stop that!
    - It is no good—it is very wicked.
    - God is calling you to come to Him
      - He brought His word to you in this sermon and He is telling you that you need to own up to your sin and repent...
        - and that if you do, He will have mercy on you!
      - Do not go on another moment with your sin.
        - You can repent right now.
        - Jesus has already died on the cross to pay for our sins.
          - Most of the people in this room have come to Him and have admitted their sin and asked Him for forgiveness.
          - Stop your excuses and come to Him too.
            - You are only destroying yourself.
    - Proverbs 28:13 sums it up quite well.
      - **Pr 28:13: He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.**