

## The Judgment and Provision of God

Spilman Memorial Baptist Church, Kinston, NC

Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr.

July 19, 2020

Diaspora XVIII – The Church Scattered, Eighteenth Sunday

Text: Genesis 3:20-4:2

Purpose: To help us realize that because of the sin of Adam and Eve, all humanity is separated from God. Only God can provide a sacrifice adequate to cover our sin. The animal skins pointed to a future sacrifice, Jesus Christ. By accepting God's provision, we are justified. If we reject God's sacrifice, we are condemned already.

Over the years, we all have heard a list of silly things that children have said. Their take on the world is often fresh and refreshing. But sometimes, even the smartest among us can say the "Darndest Things."

I came across a list of some quotes allegedly taken from actual medical records as dictated by physicians. Listen carefully and see if you can catch the mistake.



## DOCTORS SAY THE DARNDEST THINGS<sup>1</sup>

~ By the time he was admitted, his rapid heart had stopped and he was feeling better.

~ On the second day, the knee was better and on the third day it had completely disappeared.

~ The patient has been depressed ever since she began seeing me in 1983.

~ Patient was released to outpatient department without dressing.

~ Discharge status: Alive but without permission.

~ The patient refused an autopsy.

~ The patient has no past history of suicides.

~ The patient expired on the floor uneventfully.

~ The patient's medical history has been remarkably insignificant with only a 40 pound weight gain in the past three days.

~ She slipped on the ice and apparently her legs went in separate directions in early December.

~ The patient had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.

---

<sup>1</sup> Mikey's Funnies 5/12/14

~ She is numb from the toes down.

~ The skin was moist and dry.

~ When she fainted, her eyes rolled around the room.

No matter what we do, even with our best intentions, we often get things very wrong! Today I want us to turn our attention to the continuing story of Adam and Eve in the Book of Genesis. In this chapter, we will see the judgment of God but we will also see the provision that God made for Adam and Eve's sin.

## I. A Review of the Fall of Man

If you remember back in Genesis chapter three, we find that Adam and Eve have made a terrible mistake. The story that is portrayed in this chapter is really a chapter of the fall of man. In this chapter we have Satanic Teaching, Carnal Reasoning, Presumptuous Working, Guilt Concealing, Divine Seeking, Vain Excusing, and lastly a Merciful Covering.

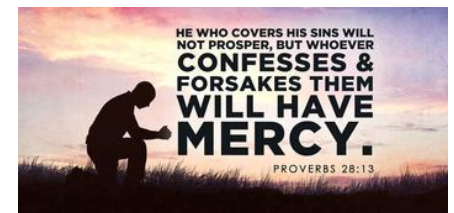
Satan came to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden beside the tree of knowledge of good and evil and told them a lie. He said, "*You will not surely die.*" We know that Satan is the master deceiver. The one that will trick, trap, and ensnare those unaware. This Satanic teaching opened the door for Adam and Eve to disobey God.

Eve looked at the fruit and desired to be wise like God. She listened to the enticing words of Satan. She forgot all about what God instructed Adam and Eve concerning the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

She looked at the fruit and reasoned in her mind that it was okay. Eve wished that God had not placed this prohibition upon her. She doubted God's word when he said, "*The day in which you eat of the tree, you shall surely die.*" She believed the word of Satan over the word of God and yielded to taste the fruit. Even though Eve was deceived by Satan, Adam was just as guilty. Their carnal reasoning enslaved them both.

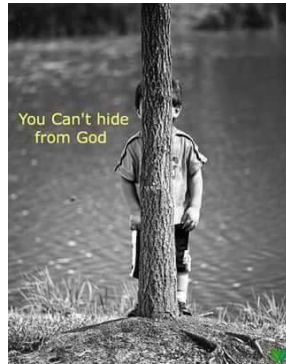
Adam and Eve knew that they had sinned. They knew they needed a way to cover their sin. So, they took leaves of figs and wove them together to form a covering. Proverbs 28:13 says, "*He that covers his sins shall not prosper.*" In Adam and Eve's case, they were to be judged by God for their sin. Their presumptuous work would fail.

Let me pause in the story of Adam and Eve and repeat this principle that is found in Proverbs. "*He that covers his sins shall not prosper.*" If you are in the midst of rebellion against what God has clearly taught, then God's word says you will not prosper. I have met people time and time again, caught up in the midst of sin who refuse to repent and turn back to the Lord. It seems the harder they work, the behinder they get! They are not prospering because they have not honored God and they continue to walk in the sin they know they are involved in.



If you are concealing a sin in your life, you need to come before the Lord and confess it. The Bible says if “*you confess your sins; God is faithful to forgive us of all sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*”

After Adam and Eve had covered their sin, they chose to hide from God. There among the trees in the Garden of Eden, they quaked with fear knowing that the day of reckoning was coming. Those that are involved in sin know that their day is coming. They are constantly looking over their shoulder to see who is watching. That person that is watching is God himself. He knows all, sees all, and hears all. God is not asleep. He watches, and in due time, he will judge the guilty. You cannot conceal your sin from God.



I want us to see, even in the midst of Adam and Eve’s sin, there is hope there in the Garden. God went to the Garden to see Adam and Eve. How amazing! God pursued Adam and Eve. God pursues sinners and calls them to repentance. There in the midst of the trees, God was calling out to them. He was seeking His lost sheep. His call awakened a conviction in the heart of Adam and Eve. It elicited a confession for their actions and it implied judgment. When God said, “*Where are you?*” that was a question for all ages. We asked ourselves the question last week, “**Where Are You?**”

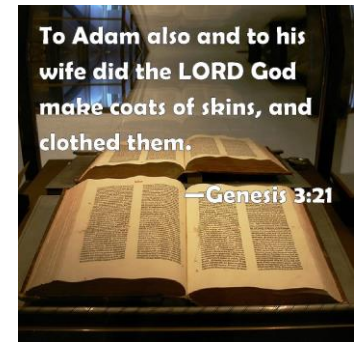
- The immortal was seeking the mortal.
- The sinless was seeking the sinful.
- The perfect was seeking the imperfect.
- The divine was seeking the sinner.

Adam and Eve entered into the endless story of blaming each other. Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the snake. All their excuses were in vain.

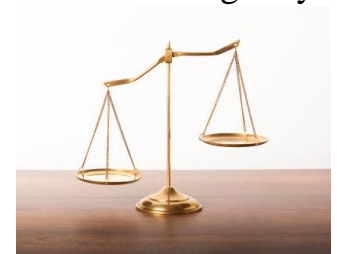
## II. The Merciful Covering

For a few moments this morning, I want to examine the merciful covering provided by God.

In Genesis 3:21 we read that God provided tunics of animal skin as a covering for Adam and Eve. The covering that Adam and Eve had provided was inadequate in the eyes of God. It was inadequate because the righteousness of man never will be adequate to earn forgiveness from God. Our righteousness – will never be adequate to earn forgiveness from God.



Sometimes you will hear a person say, “Well I haven’t done anything too wrong in my life. Maybe God will weigh my good deeds against my bad ones and the scales will tip in my favor!” We need to realize that it would only take one sin to make us unfit for Heaven. The only way we will ever be able to call Heaven our home one day is through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins.



So many people in this world want to say that they are good enough to be in God's kingdom. We bristle at the idea that WE may be a sinner. WE think that WE are good and all the OTHER people in the world are the sinners that the Bible is talking about. But if the truth be known, this house – this church – this room full of people – is filled with sinners. We all have a secret stronghold in our life. Until we see ourselves a sinner, we will always think OUR righteousness is good enough.

I remember talking with someone several years ago who was concerned about her father. She shared with me that her father had been involved in the church all his life. He went to church. Supported the budget. Assisted in any project in the church. Their church taught them that they were good and therefore they were “in the family of God.” After all, he was baptized as an infant and confirmed as a teenager.

This woman shared with her father that salvation comes by God and God alone. It is not by our goodness that we receive salvation. We are sinners separated from God.



But God, through His Amazing Grace, has extended forgiveness to us through His Son Jesus Christ. When we acknowledge our sinfulness, and receive God's Son as our Savior, God extends **grace** abundantly and forgiveness aplenty. This woman told me that her father had thought all of his life he was saved, but now he was SURE of his salvation.

### III. God Provides the Sacrifice

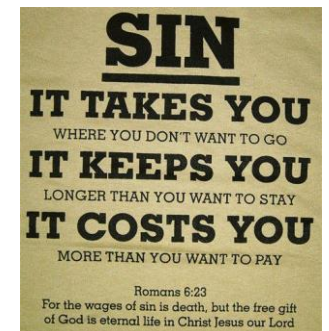
If you examine the text in Genesis carefully, you will see that it was God that made the covering for Adam and Eve. The first death that was brought into the world came about because of sin. God killed the animals. Their blood was shed. The Bible says that the wages of sin is death. It also says without the shedding of blood there is no remission for sin. It was by the grace of God and His mercy that a sacrifice was offered.



In Genesis chapter twenty-two, we read the story of Abraham bringing the sacrifice of Isaac, his son, upon the altar because God told him to do it. As Isaac was being led up the mountain to the place of sacrifice, Isaac asked “*Where is the sacrifice?*” Abraham replied, “*God will provide a sacrifice for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.*” As Abraham was about to bring the knife down, we see that God provided a ram caught in the brush nearby which was the sacrifice in place of Abraham's son Isaac.

### IV. God Sent Adam and Eve Out of the Garden of Eden

The consequence of Adam and Eve's sin was separation. Yes, they had been covered in forgiveness by God – but the consequences of their actions were still in force. The perfect creation they enjoyed in the Garden was now only going to be a memory. Now that their innocence is gone, they can never turn back.



There are consequences for sin. It may not come immediately, but one day, the results will come.

- If you steal, then one day you will get caught.
- If you use drugs, one day it may put you in jail or in the morgue.
- If you lie, you will eventually get caught and lose credibility and trustworthiness.
- If you are involved in a sexual relationship outside of marriage, you may end up losing your spouse and/or your health.
- If you are caught up in pornography, then you corrupt your mind.
- If you gossip, you ruin your reputation as one to be trusted.

The consequences of sin often appear and manifest themselves in ways we do not expect or want. Mark my words, the Day of Judgment will come.

Adam and Eve were put out of the Garden of Eden. To block the door to the garden, God placed a cherub, a mighty angel, with a flaming sword to guard the way to the tree of life. There was no turning back.

The sovereignty of God is manifested in this story. God placed them in the Garden, and God took them out. But the mercy of God is also demonstrated. God gave them life. God allowed life to continue by allowing the birth of two children, Cain and Abel.

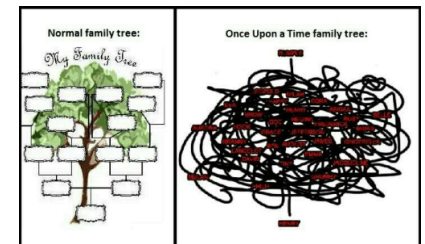
## V. The Children of Adam and Eve

Cain and Abel were the first two children born to Adam and Eve after they were placed outside of the Garden of Eden. They didn't have access to the Tree of Life. They were punished because of the sin of their parents. Even today, we no longer have access to that Tree of Life. Cain and Able suffered because of their parents.



Parents are imperfect people – even today. Today we find some parents that have abused or neglected their children. Other parents have introduced their children to drugs and alcohol. Some homes today do not provide the ideal model of a stable home life. Today many children are bounced from home to home trying to be involved in both mom and dad's life. Some homes are broken with one parents involved in different relationships, busy with their jobs, dating, partying, or so tired their children lack interaction with them.

Today families are comprised of brothers, step-brothers, step-mothers, and step-half-grandmothers, among others and keeping them all sorted out is impossible without a genealogy tree. Now there are many different families and I am not saying that is bad, but even in the best of situations, we still suffer from the sin of Adam and Eve.



What our nation has done to the family and the disruption that is occurring in the home today will haunt our nation for generations to come. The fallout of sinful behavior, sinful selfish actions, will possibly ruin our nation.

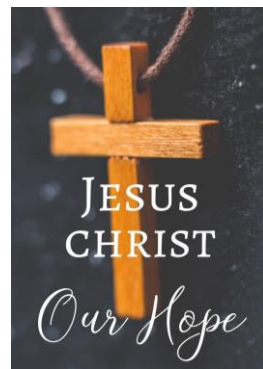
When God put Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden, He said there would be trouble. Many people do not like to think that they are sinful as well. We need to realize without Jesus Christ, we are separated from God. Adam and all his descendents are by birth, are separated from God.

Some people would say that we are “all God’s children.” This is very comforting and sounds very religious. In a subtle way, they are saying that God would never reject them. But this kind of thinking is totally unscriptural. Yes, God created us. But Adam’s sin put all men into a position alienated and cut off from God.

## VI. Our Hope is Jesus Christ

Our only hope is found in the sacrifice offered at Calvary. God loved us so much that He sent His One and Only Son, Jesus Christ, as an atonement – payment - for our sin. The perfect, sinless, holy, righteous, Lamb of God – Jesus Christ – died for you.

Our hope for eternity is only found in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. God has provided the perfect, final sacrifice.



My question for us today is, “*What are you depending upon for your salvation?*”

<b>WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED ?</b>		
Both Jesus and the apostles (guided by the Holy Spirit) taught that to be saved, it is necessary that one:		
<b>Hear</b>	Romans 10:13-17	John 6:45 Revelation 1:3
<b>Believe</b>	John 2:30-31	Hebrews 11:6 Acts 16:31
<b>Repent</b>	Luke 13:3-5	Acts 2:38 Acts 17:30-31
<b>Confess</b>	Matthew 10:32-33 Romans 10:9-10	
<b>Be Baptized</b>	Mark 16:15-16 Acts 2:38	1 Peter 3:21 Acts 22:16
<b>Live Godly</b>	Titus 2:11-14	Romans 12:1-2 2 Peter 1:5-11

Are you depending upon your own righteousness and goodness?

Or are you depending solely on the work of grace offered by Christ on Calvary?

Only one leads to eternal life.

## LET US PRAY

### End Notes:

Notes for the Introduction Section were taken from Handfuls on Purpose, Vol. I, page 50

Other items from Firm Foundations: Creation to Christ, New Tribes Mission, Lesson 12, page 207