

Genesis 3:8-15, Mark 3:20-35

“The LORD God called to the man, and said to him, ‘Where are you?’” I think this is question of wanting to know their location. But a question of where are you in our relationship.

When God created Adam and Eve in the beginning, their fellowship and relationship was perfect and complete. But now Adam and Eve are hiding.

In the beginning Adam and Eve loved their God and Father above all else, but they fear Him.

Adam and Eve pure pleasure and joy in one another and in the garden that had been given to them to enjoy, but now all they can muster up is the boney finger of accusation and blame.

They had changed. They had fallen. They were in bondage to sin.

God never did change. He comes walking seeking them out as dear Father loving them and seeking fellowship and relationship with them. “Where are you?” Now the relationship has become distant. So instead of rejoicing in who they were they are now ashamed and hiding. And in this condition, they would have probably been content to leave it this way. It would have been fine to keep running away from God for the 930 years or so. Yet seek them out as their dear Father loving them. “Where are you?”

We are over here, behind the bushes. We hid because we heard you coming and did not want you find us out. We are afraid and hiding from each other because we are naked.

Who told you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree I commanded you not to eat from? When caught in sin what do you do? There goes the boney finger of accusation. The blame game. “The woman you gave me handed me a piece of fruit. So I ate.”

God the Father turns to His daughter and asks, “What have you done?” Eve is probably wondering the same thing. What have I done? Things are not better as the serpent-as Satan promised. I wish I could take it back. The joy and pleasure and fellowship are all gone now. The serpent’s-Satan’s promise are just empty. If I could just undone everything I have done....But she can’t. Nor can He.

You’ve been there. So have I. When thought a sin would give you what you wanted but it didn’t. Things got worse. When spoke impulsively hoping to get the upper hand, but all you got was a lot of hurt and grief and broken relationship. If only I could take those words back. Now all you want to do is just hide.

God the Father comes after His dear scared children knowing that they will never come to Him. If we come to Him, what will He do? We have ruined everything. So, not only does God come to them, He comes for them. And when finds them God speaks word that must have surprised them. Their enemy, the serpent-Satan is God’s enemy too. Their Father is on their side. God promises to do something about their bondage to sin and this broken relationship. The LORD God turns to curse the serpent. One who is to come will do something about this. The enemy

will receive a crushing blow to the head. But the one issuing the blow will not be unscathed. He will receive a bruised heel. It will not be Adam and Eve, they are in bondage and can't free themselves. It be one of there offspring. Having been given this promise they can now live by faith begetting children looking for the day when that would take place, for God keeping His promises.

That keeping is what the people in Jesus' day were seeing. Demons were being cast out. The people did not know what to make of it. That thought Jesus was crazy. Jesus scared them. They did not understand what was going on. It like they are experiencing a battle between good and evil. "He is in league with Beelzebul and the ruler of demons. They ready to throw a straight-jacket on Jesus. That seems like the safe thing to do. Jesus, hearing this says, "This doesn't make sense. How can the demons cast out demons that put them in a civil war with themselves. What you are seeing and hearing about is the binding of the one who put you bandage in the first place. The stronger on has come. And in fact, Jesus is in his right mind. Jesus is the one who see the bandage we cannot see.

It is good. These words are sweetness. Though they could not bind Jesus that day. He would allow himself to be bound when the time was right. That other day that would not be in straight jacket but nailed to a cross. For this binding on the cross and grave would accomplish what Jesus came to do. In stomping the head of Satan with his heel Jesus would be setting us free from sins. and restoring our relationship back to God. That is what we need.

Just God came for his frightened children in the Garden He comes to us in His Word, in the bread and wine of the sacrament and in the His forgiveness.