

# Where Are You?

Baseball Chapel

Genesis 3:1 – 13

February 23, 2020

**Verse 8:** Take a moment and think about this. The first created man and woman are in the Garden of Eden and we are told that they had perfect communion with God. He would come often in the cool of the day and walk in the Garden with the man and woman and they had perfect holy fellowship. They lived in paradise and God was with them. Imagine, living in a place of perfection in fellowship and communion with a perfect and loving God. There were no impurities, there was no sin, everything was perfect. We, as Christians, have a longing for this kind of fellowship with our perfect Creator God. But unfortunately, this fellowship was broken as sin was committed and severed the perfect relationship.

When they sinned, we are told, that they were afraid and tried to hide from God. What used to cause great anticipation, excitement and joy (hearing God coming to fellowship with them) now was something they feared. In their fear they tried to hide from God. There are many people in the Bible who have tried to hide their sin from God, and all were unsuccessful. Cain tried to hide his brother's murder. David tried to hide his sin of adultery. Jonah tries to hide by running. The list goes on and the truth remains we cannot successfully run and hide from God. He always finds us.

**Verse 9:** God calls out to Adam... "Where are you?" God is not asking this because he doesn't know where Adam is; the question could be better translated, "Why are you hiding?" God knew they were hiding, and, in this question, we see some of God's attributes. We see...

1. God's mercy. The promise was if they ate the fruit they would surely die. This probably meant spiritual death, but it certainly meant physical death as well. Instead of destroying the man and woman he calls out to them. Why?
2. In his mercy he gives man an opportunity to confess his sin. God knew what happened and he gives man the opportunity to own up to his sin. In this we see God's grace and compassion.

**Verse 10 - 13:** Fear and blame is always our answer when we try to hide from God... The Man replies, "I was afraid, and I hid..."

Instead of coming clean with God the man and woman do what humans do best... they blame each other for their sins.

Man (what he said) - It was the woman you gave me... It's her fault. She gave me the fruit and I ate it. You gave her to me, and she told me to eat so it is her fault. Actually, God, it is your fault because if you wouldn't have given her to me then I wouldn't have eaten.

Man (what he should have said) – Yes, I ate of the tree and I am sorry please forgive me.

Woman (What she said) – It's the snake's fault! HE tricked me! If it wasn't for this vile creature that you created, then I would have never eaten of the fruit. So really, it's your fault God.

Woman (What she should have said) – Yes, I ate of the tree and I am sorry, please forgive me.

We would all do ourselves a great favor if we would just take responsibility for our sins and actions. This is a hard lesson to learn because blame is so much easier. When it is someone else's fault we don't have to take responsibility for our sins and actions and we don't have to go through the painful process of humbling ourselves and asking for forgiveness.

When we look at this account, we see our sin always has consequences.

- 1) Sin always severs fellowship with God. Sin has separated us from God. This is why we need Jesus. Jesus has mended the broken relationship by offering himself as the perfect sacrifice for sin and allows those who believe to have a restored relationship with God. So often people decide to live in sin and expect God to bless them in their sins. The truth is when we choose to allow sin to control us then we choose to break fellowship with God. Most if not all of us know that when we are in the very act of sinning God is usually not in the forefront of our minds.
- 2) Sin causes us to be irrational. The man and woman tried to cover their sins by hiding and covering their nakedness. This is preposterous. We often try to cover our sins by taking matters into our own hands. We try to cover our sins (usually by sinning more) or "fix things" instead of going directly to God and confessing what we have done wrong. Only the blood of Jesus can cover and I mean fully cover the awful sins we have committed.

3) Sin causes us to blame others. When we sin it is nobody's fault but our own.

Nobody can force you to sin. The snake did not force the woman to eat. The woman did not force the man to eat. They all ate willingly and they were all to blame. It is so much easier to blame someone for the sins I commit. I can blame someone who said something mean to me as an excuse to treat others poorly. I can blame the stresses of work as an excuse for being short with my family, friends and loved ones. I can blame the person who cuts me off on the road as an excuse for having road rage. I don't have a problem finding someone to blame for the sins I commit and this my friends is the problem. We all need to take a step back and know that our sins are a choice we make.

But the beautiful thing is that we are not enslaved by our sins. Through confession and repentance to Jesus Christ we can receive forgiveness. I John 1:9 tells us, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." This my friends is grace and forgiveness is available to all who confess and repent.

My prayer for all of you today is that as you walk with God daily, that you will live your lives in manner that glorifies his name. However, I also pray that when you do sin, we all do every day, that you would know that when you humble yourself, and confess your sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us all from unrighteousness.