

Where Are You?

Genesis 3:1-13

Giving excuses is a way of avoiding shame

What?

Instead of hiding and shifting blame, we can confess and give God our shame

No upside when you hide (6-8)—

God did not create evil; evil is the absence of obedience to God, a spiritual vacuum

In her temptation, Eve experienced the “lust of the flesh,” the “lust of the eyes,” and the “pride of life”

But ultimately the temptation was to be like God

What we see next is at the very heart of the sinful nature—deception, either outright lying, or covering sin

An amazing pattern that we’re going to see again and again in these OT accounts is how God pursued

The Big Question—Where are you? (9-13)

“Where are you?” was an invitation to confess and come out of hiding

Notice their shifting of blame, even on to God

The Jesus connection—

God did not withdraw the consequences of their action; they could no longer live forever, or enjoy the close fellowship they once had with God because of the taint of sin

But God does not destroy them, and in fact promises to send a Redeemer

Hebrews 2:14-15, ESV—Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has

the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery

So What?

Human nature hasn’t changed in over 6000 years; we also tend to shift blame, make excuses

We may say, “Where are you, God?” when God is saying “Where are you?” to us

God’s willingness to offer mercy and grace in response to repentance is the same today as it was then

As believers we can be in a hidden rift with God

Symptoms of a hidden rift with God can include fear, over-alertness, nervous tension, rapid heartbeat

But the thing that goes against reason is that the safest place is not in hiding from God

God will pursue us through His word, through sermons or Bible studies, through circumstances, through others, or His quiet voice

God doesn’t withdraw the consequences of our actions, but His infinite mercy is there to forgive and restore

You and I must ask the Spirit to help us identify the deep error of believing God is wrong, rid our minds of the tendency to dispute Him, and fill our minds with the truth

The final say—Jeremiah

Lamentations 3:25, ESV—The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him

Now What?

Come out of hiding, name your shame to God, and put faith in Jesus to save you

Ask the Spirit to show you any areas of your life where you are disputing God