

## Adam: the consequences of disobedience to God

The story of a disobedient child who was allowed to do anything. When she disobeyed the parents laughed it off. The child did whatever she wanted and didn't listen to anyone. The parents normally laughed it off saying she was at that age. However one day the garden gate was left open and the child ran out into the street. A car was coming and the mother shouted at the child to stop and come back in. As normal the child disobeyed laughing and ran into the street and was hit by the car. The child died. This was a tragic consequence of disobedience.

Genesis 3: 8 – 24

### 1) God seeks after man

- The man and his wife heard God and they hid from Him.
  - It isn't in the nature of man to seek God, but to hide from Him.
  - Romans 3: 10 There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.
  - Hiding from God can take various forms:
    - Being religious
    - Being irreligious
    - Finding satisfaction in other things besides God
    - Atheism
- God called out to Adam
  - God always takes the initiative to reach out to us.
    - 1 John 4: 19 We love because he first loved us.
    - Ephesians 4: 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
- We need God. God doesn't need us.
  - He made us to be reliant on Him. He doesn't rely on us as if He needs us.
  - Whatever we are we are by the grace of God.
  - Whatever we do we do by the grace of God.
    - 1 Corinthians 15: 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them —yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

### 2) Consequences of disobedience

- Fear (v.10)
  - They hid from God because they feared Him
  - It wasn't the same fear as having a healthy respect for God but an actual fear of consequences for doing something wrong.
  - God had made the consequence of disobeying Him very clear – on that day you will surely die.
  - With such a harsh consequence they had much reason to be afraid. They were basically facing the death penalty
  - The fact is that all of us lived under this penalty of death because of our sin.
    - Romans 6: 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Shame
  - Besides the guilt of transgressing the law of God disobedience brought shame
  - In Genesis 2: 25 the man and his wife were naked and felt no shame. However now they realised that they were naked and hid from God.
    - Ephesians 5: 12 It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

- In some cultures it is called losing face when they do something wrong and are shamed.
- In fact we have lost face with God by our sin and need our honour to be restored.
- Blame
  - Whereas man and woman were made to be one flesh treating each other as equals with love and respect they started blaming each other.
  - The man blamed the woman. (v.12)
  - The woman blamed the serpent. (v.13)
  - Disobedience and sin resulted in the shirking of taking responsibility of their own sin and pushing the blame onto others.
  - Sometimes it's a matter of trying to deal with shame to push the responsibility of our actions onto someone else.
  - Other times it's a matter of dealing with the guilt because guilt carries consequences.
  - In salvation confession of sin is vital as it's a taking of personal responsibility for your own sin.
  - We cannot blame the devil – he only tempts us but we decide to sin or not, we cannot blame others, we cannot blame our circumstances.
- Hardship
  - Firstly the serpent was cursed to crawl on its belly and eat dust. (v.14)
  - The woman would give birth with much pain.
  - The man would eat of the ground through painful toil
- Separation from God and the tree of life
  - They were banished from the Garden of Eden
  - An angel with a flaming sword was placed between them and the tree of life so they had no access to it.
  - They were now separated from God, His life and all that He had given them.
    - Isaiah 59: 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

### 3) A promise within the consequences

- The promise of the crushing of Satan
  - Genesis 3: 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.
  - This points to Christ. Satan struck his heel – put him on the cross – indicating that it wasn't fatal. However Christ crushed his head indicating a fatal blow.
    - Colossians 2: 13 – 15 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.
    - 1 Corinthians 2: 7 – 8 No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
- The promise of the removal of shame
  - Genesis 3: 21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.
  - Hebrews 12: 1 – 2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.