

Adam: the pattern of Christ

Most of us have watched action movies and thrillers. The plots are all very similar. A villain bent on causing destruction unleashes an evil plan setting the plot for mass destruction. The hero comes in and saves the day. One such scene is in one of the Spiderman movies where Dr Octopus sets a train full of people on a collision course which is bound to kill everyone on board. Spiderman comes in and manages to stop the train. Through one man everyone is condemned to death but through another man everyone is saved and lives. In a similar way death came through Adam but life through Christ.

Romans 5: 12 – 21

1) A life of condemnation (12 – 14)

- Sin entered the world through one man – Adam – and along with it death.
- This death wasn't merely for some people but for all people.
 - Romans 3: 10 (quoted from Psalm 14) As it is written: There is no one righteous, not even one.
- When Adam sinned sin permeated the whole human race like a plague. No one was exempt. The very nature of man is sinful
 - Genesis 6: 5 The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.
- Sin was in the world before the law was given – the law given to Moses at Mount Sinai.
 - Although, technically speaking, sin can only be judged if there is law against it in place death still reigned prior to the giving of the law.
 - If there isn't a law against killing then killing someone can't be judged by a court of law because it isn't against the law to kill. However there are still consequences of killing someone – death, revenge, bitterness, sorrow.
 - Hence there doesn't have to be a law in place for the natural consequences of sin to take place.
 - So when we are faced with temptation or a moral dilemma we shouldn't ask whether it is lawful or not but what are the natural outcomes and consequences of what we are tempted to do. Will it:
 - Enhance or diminish the glory of God in our lives?
 - Build up or break down personal morality using the character of God as our guideline?
 - Build up or break down personal relationships?
- Sin of any kind results in death
- Death reigns through sin because sin is the sting of death.
 - 1 Corinthians 15: 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
- By saying that death reigns means that we are subject – in slavery – to sin and death.
- We think that we can free ourselves but that is a deception. Being in slavery to something means that we are bound to it and cannot free ourselves. We need outside help in the same way the Israelites couldn't free themselves from slavery to Egypt and needed God's intervention by sending Moses.

2) Grace – justifying the unjustifiable (15 – 17)

- When we think that all is lost and all is gloom there is grace.
 - Grace is mentioned three times and gift five times in these three verses.
- As sin leads to death so the gift of God is eternal life.
 - Romans 6: 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Sin came through one man – Adam.
- Life and grace came through one man – Jesus Christ
- Along with sin came condemnation and judgment.
- The gift of God brought justification for the unjustifiable
- Why unjustifiable?
 - None of the sin that we commit – no matter how small – can be justified before God.
 - Sin is rebellion against God and will be judged.
- This is why what we couldn't and can't do for ourselves, God did in Jesus.
 - Romans 8: 1 – 4 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
- God justified the unjustifiable by becoming sin for us and giving us His own righteousness.
 - This is the gift of God by His grace

3) The result of an act of righteousness (18 – 21)

- Here we see Adam being the pattern of Christ in affecting all people.
 - Adam's sin resulted in condemnation for all people.
 - Christ's righteous act resulted in the justification and life for all people.
- Disobedience brought death but we are made righteous by the obedience of Christ.
- Sin reigned in death but grace reigned through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ
- How is this obtained?
 - Ephesians 2: 8 – 9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith —and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.
 - We need to believe who Jesus is and what He did for us on the cross to receive the gift of God.