

## Genesis 3:8-15

Pentecost 3; June 9 & 10, 2024

Our youngest daughter was only about 3 or 4 years old. We were still living in a 2-bedroom flat off of 30<sup>th</sup> and Grange after we had moved from the church I served in Florida. Therefore, it meant that all three kids were in the same bedroom. We were about to eat supper before an Ascension Service here at church. Things were rather hectic trying to get the kids rounded up, eat supper, and get ready for church. So, we began to look for Katie. We began to ask the question: *“Where are you?”* There was no sign of her. We looked through the house, and I began to drive around our neighborhood. Yet, no sign of her. As parents, you get this panic feeling. Thoughts begin to go through our heads. Do we call the police? Before we did, we decided to do one more sweep of the house. We checked the basement. We asked the people who were in the upper flat above us if they had seen Katie. (Sometimes, she would wander up there on her own.) No Katie. My wife went back to their bedroom, which had 3 kids living in it with unmade beds. My wife pulled back all the covers completely. There she was curled up in a ball. Her first words were: *“Me hiding.”* At that moment of time, you felt like jumping for joy or wanting to kill her at the same time.

Today, in our text, we see God answering the same question: **“Where are you?”** Yet, unlike us who were looking for our daughter, God knew the answer to that question. Let’s take a look at this text by asking the question: **“Where are you?”** We will see that we were *1. lost in sin, 2. but found in Jesus.*

The dust had barely settled after God had created this world. As God created this world, he did with only one purpose in mind. He wanted to do life with Adam and Eve. They were the crown of his creation. Everyday God walked with them as Moses tells us in our text that Adam and Eve heard the **“sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day.”** This one day was different. They heard God coming, and like a little child, they hid from God. This day they were not play *hide and seek* game with God. Everything had just changed. **“<sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”** <sup>2</sup> **The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”** <sup>4</sup> **“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman.** <sup>5</sup> **“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”**

Suddenly, they no longer wanted to *do life with God.* They no longer wanted to be in the presence of the Almighty God. They now learned the difference of **“good and evil”** – good as something they now had lost; evil as something that now took over their entire being. They were no longer at ease with even of themselves. **“<sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so, they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.”** At that moment, they knew they lost paradise. They now moved into *panic mode.* They needed to do something to fix the problem of sin. They tried. They felt shameful. They needed to cover up themselves so that God would not see their shame. The words of verse 7 in this chapter are the opposite of the words found just a few verses before our text: **“<sup>2:25</sup> Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.”** They tried to hide from God. This was a first! Adam and Eve had never needed to hide from God before. They had a perfect relationship with Him. They were now afraid of the punishment they deserved because they had not listened to God.

Moses writes: **“Where are you?” He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so, I hid.” And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”** God knew exactly where they were when he asked the question: **“Where are you?”** Just like the parent who catches their child doing something wrong, he gave them a chance to repent. Instead of relying on the grace of God, they tried to justify their actions.

The man said, **“The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”** In other words, they played the blame game. Perhaps, Adam is trying to say: *God, you know how women are. It’s her fault.* Ultimately, Adam is saying that it was God’s fault. *If God hadn’t made Eve, he wouldn’t have sinned.* Eve doesn’t do much better: *The Devil made me do it.* Both of them are trying to justify themselves instead of relying on the grace of God. Sinners don’t want to admit that they are sinners. We try to keep that sin hidden from others.

What would this world look like if there were no sicknesses, no diseases, or pandemics? What would this world look like if everyday was the perfect temperature? What would this world look like if there were no signs of aging or of death. What would this world look like if it were in perfect unity with mankind; no tornados; no hurricanes; no deadly snow storms; no broken relationships? It's almost impossible for us to know what an unbroken world would look like. Isn't it? There is nothing that we can do to fix it. We can try as hard as we can, but we will never fix a broken world.

There is only one person who could do what we could not do – Jesus. What if the that scene, that played out in Genesis, had a different answer to the question: **“Where are you?”** But it didn't. God wanted Adam and Eve that he would fix the world that had now been broken because of sin. He gives them a promise. **“Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. 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.”**

**“I will put enmity between you and the woman.”** Who is God talking about in those words? Elsewhere the Devil is called the “Father of lies.” How will this Savior going to create this **enmity** between himself and the Devil. This Messiah is going to take the hearts of the people who have listened to the lies of Satan, and he will regenerate them; he will recreate them to follow Jesus. *They are now going to love me and not you.* Did you notice one more thing with those words of God? He curses the serpent and not Adam and Eve. God came to Adam and Eve and asked where they were, ultimately so that He could share this promise with them, the promise of a Savior! God's words here, even though they're directed at the serpent, are really addressed to Satan, who had used the serpent's form to get what he wanted. And now whenever you and I see a snake slithering along in the dirt, it's a reminder from God to us that the old Serpent, Satan, has *“bitten the dust.”*

Those words were fulfilled when God sent his Son into this world to do what we could not do. He wanted Adam and Eve to know that *the tree, by which good and evil is known*, would have the last word. Satan would also be defeated by another tree – the cross on Calvary. Trust Jesus. On that one day when we couldn't find our daughter Katie, we were more relieved than angry. I don't think we even disciplined her at all. God loves you dearly. Trust his promises. Take comfort that the answer to the question, **“Where are you?”** is: *In Christ!* May God grant that to all of us. Amen.