

## **When Sin Wins**

Genesis 3:8-13

(preached Pine Grove 4/22/18; Sunday PM)

### **Introduction**

In February 2018, there were more murders in the streets of London than in New York City..

That is the first that has ever happened since they began tracking murder rates...

And needless to say, Londoners were scratching their head..

Why are murder rates and really all crimes rates steadily growing in their city?

And the result is that politicians began pointing fingers at one another...

Conservatives in England said that more police were needed, while liberals in England said that more social programs were needed...

And while each talked about it, murders there in the month of March were also greater than the murders in New York City.

Well, British reporter Theresa Raphael wrote an article this past Thursday that simply asked the question, why are murder rates up?

And she began to list a number of possible reasons...

A growing gang presence in the streets of London...

A recent cut in police employment...

An influx of immigrants to the city.

A recent decrease in personal searches by police officers..

Growing poverty in and around London...

And the list went on and on...

And though there may be factors that lead to a rise in crime in particular areas, the bottom line is a rise in crime in the growing sin in the human heart...

More people sin today because fewer people are embracing the gospel...

Whether that is in London or Chicago or even in Fairview SC...

You see the gospel is the only solution to less crime because the gospel transforms the heart...

A heart that has been corrupted by sin since birth, and the reason for that the corrupted heart is the result of what happened on one day in Genesis 3...

In one day, man abandoned a sinless heart and embraced a sin-filled heart by a simple act of sin and disobedience in the garden of Eden..

And that sinful act on that fateful day forever changed the course of the world and the actions of man..

Now the world doesn't believe that account in the garden because they reject the Bible..

The reject the idea of Adam and Eve being the parents of the entire world's population...

And therefore, they scratch their heads when it comes to evil and crime and all sorts of unhelpful behavior...

And they try to find the source of criminal activity without seeing people as sinful creatures...

Because in their view if man is born basically good, then his sin must be the result of his environment...

And in their thinking, if you can change his environment, you can change his sinful actions...

But that is doomed to failure since the problem is not the world around man but the fallen heart within man...

And the story of the fallen and sinful is the truth of Genesis 3...

And that is why we are going to spend a little time in the chapter over the next few weeks...

I will simply say this...

If a person doesn't get the truths of Genesis 3, they will never be able to fully understand the world around them and even fully understand themselves...

If a person doesn't understand the consequences that came from Adam and Eve's sin in Genesis 3, they will never fully appreciate the message of salvation...

They never will fully see their need of Christ..

They will never fully understand the actions of their children...

They will never fully understand how to parent, how to deal with other people in the world, how to overcome their own sin, and how to respond to the things that they see in a fallen world..

Genesis 3 is foundational to having a proper view of ourselves, our neighbors, our world, and our God..

There are many people in Christian churches and pastors of churches who refuse to acknowledge the sinfulness of man from birth...

Many people who call themselves Christians reject the notion that children are born with a sin nature as a result of what happens in Genesis 3...

And if you don't see people as naturally sinful, your will never have a proper view of the world..

The people in London wonder why murder is on the rise in their streets, and the struggle to find a solution to it...

It is rather simple if you have a biblical worldview.

The reason murder is rising is because people are born with a sinful nature and unless they address that sinful nature, that sin will grow out of control...

You want less murder?

Support churches that preach the gospel...

Encourage people to find salvation in Christ..

Because true Christians don't murder people...

Therefore, more believers in Christ equals less murder.

But you will never come to that conclusion if you reject the Bible and especially if you reject the truth of Genesis 3...

So, let's continue our look at this pivotal moment in world history..

So far, we have taken a look at the first 7 verses of this important chapter, where we saw the background on the day that changed everything in the universe...

Tonight, we continue that tragedy in verses 8-13...

I am calling this, When Sin Wins....

Because sin did win in Genesis 3, and as a result everybody after Adam lost the battle before it ever began...

So look at the effect of sin's victory in the garden tonight  
...

Before we dig into verses 8-13, let's read verses 1 to 7 to bring us up to speed and serve as a little review..

***1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from [a]any tree of the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" 4 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! 5 For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves [b]loin coverings***

Long story short, Satan entered a walking serpent, and approached Eve when she apparently alone..

He began to accuse God of being a restrictive and mean God by not allowing Eve to eat from a tree..

Eve follows his lead and begins to see the restrictive nature of God...

Then when Satan tells her that God is a liar and that he lied to her about dying if she ate from tree takes of the fruit of the tree and eats...

Adam eventually comes into the picture and she gives the fruit to him.

Adam eats it and now through their act of disobeying, they now experience sin.

And the immediate consequence is they notice their nakedness, which must trigger all sorts of inappropriate thoughts..

So they run and grab some fig leaves to cover themselves from one another...

And sin is now in the garden...

Sin is now in their hearts...

Sin is now infecting creation..

Sin has now won victory in the perfect universe...

And all is downhill from now..



Now if we listen to evolutionists, they say that humans are result of billions and billions of years of evolution that has led to an upward progression...

Those scientists see man as a great progression from a single cell crawling out the soup and evolving upward and upward until man now dominates the world scene..

The Bible would take a much different view of man..

Though man is God's masterpiece and the height of His creation.

The present condition of man is not an upward progression but the result of a downward descent..

Man was made perfect and holy and righteous but fell into his sinful state as result of his disobedience to God..

People today are not rising through evolution but falling deeper and deeper due to sin..

So let's take the ride down with Adam and Eve beginning in verse 8...

Any my prayer is that we would all see the harmful and destructive effects of sin and work to rid to rid our lives of it...

## **I. Sin Leads to Shame (8)**

Verse 8..

***8 They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the [c]cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.***

Before we look at the results of sin here, let's deal with some extra things in the text here that may lead to some questions for you..

First, how can you hear the sound of God walking if God is Spirit..

Though we can't look at them all, there are times in the OT where God appears in some form...

In a burning bush, in a cloud or fire...

And even in bodily form, which I think is what happened here in verses 8-13...

These appearances of God are called theophanies..

Which means God brought to light...

And here in the garden, God approaches Adam and Eve in bodily form so they can hear him coming..

And now that they are sinners, how do they respond to the coming of God?

They run and hide among the trees of the garden..

Up until this point, the presence of God would have brought them great joy, but now that sin has become a part of their lives, it leads to great fear and shame...

Therefore they run and hide..

This is still the response of the sinner to God...

Now, you dont see people running for cover these days, but guess what you do you see?

People staying far away from God as possible...

Why is church attendance at an all time low in this country?

Sinners don't want to be anywhere near the proclamation of God's truth...

They don't want to ever approach the sound of where God is speaking to them through His word...

I can also tell you this...

If you are saved and living obediently, people will run from you too..

Friends will desert you because your life speaks of the existence of God, and they want no part of that..

Funny thing about being a pastor is that people will avoid you at times....

Look, I am no different than anyone in the world..

I am a sinner that faces the same temptations that all of you face...

I am sinner that need the blood of Christ to wash away my sins...

I put on my pants one leg at a time, but people will change in my presence or avoid me altogether at times...

It is so odd but that is how far people will go to avoid having anything to be reminded of the existence and holiness of God...

Sin leads to shame and fear...

Why do you think there are false religions in the world?

It is form of cover to help people avoid the true God of the universe...

Even atheists attempt to hide from God behind their unbelief...

In their mind, if they can just deny the existence of God, He will just go away...

This is the the nature of the fallen and sinful mind...

It sins and it runs for cover..

Some run to drugs and alcohol.

Some run to relationships.

Some run to money...

And all those things and plenty of others are simply places to hide from God...

When you share the gospel with people who aren't saved, remember that they are filled with shame and fear of God...

And use that and testify how that was true in your life...

And explain to them that there is nowhere to hide in this world...

And that the only way to run from God is to actually run to Him for help...

So, the downward spiral of sin has led Adam and Eve to take cover in the trees of the garden...

But like the psalmist says, "Who can hide from the presence of the Lord since He is everywhere..

And that is certainly true here...

So, let's move to verses 9-10, where sin leads to another devastating action...

## **II. Sin Leads to Deceit (9-10)**

***9 Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."***

In verse 9, I think we all understand that God is not unaware of where Adam is..

God knows all and sees all, so he has the knowledge of Adam and Eve hiding behind the trees...

So the question of verse 9 is not meant for God to determine the location of Adam and go to him..

The question of verse 9 is asked so that Adam can admit his sin and disobedience...

Yet, Adam fails to do that in his answer in verse 10...

He lies to God...

Adam isn't hiding because he is naked...

In fact, we know that he has on fig leaves at this point..

He is hiding because he disobeyed...

We used to have an inside dog that were were trying to were trying to train to use the bathroom outside...

In the process of training him, every once in a while, we wouldn't be able to find him...

And when we did, he would hiding somewhere...

And if he was hiding somewhere, you could bank on it that he had used the bathroom somewhere in the house...

We also see this in our children...

If they went into hiding, it was simply because they had already disobeyed...

They weren't hiding because of their actions..

They were hiding due to their disobedience...

This is Adam and Eve.

Even if they had still been naked, they were hiding because of the nakedness...

They hid because of the disobedience...

You see, Adam has the problem that millions of people have today...



He refuses to acknowledge his sin...

He cannot admit his disobedience...

This is the sad condition of the guilty sinner..

Many people in the world know that they do bad things...

In fact, many people will even tell you that..

But here is where they fall short...

First, they dont see their “badness” as sin against God...

And second, they dont see their badness as really that bad...

Besides, they know people that are much worse than them...

This is the consequence of sin..

It leads people to hide from God and even lie to Him about their sin..

It is not only outward deception to God...

It is only inward deception...

What Adam should have done is answered God with a very simple, “Yes, Lord I sinned against you by not obeying your word.”

Instead, he digs the whole deeper by lying to God about why he was hiding..

Now, let’s take just a minute to see the grace of God here.

I want you to understand and you need to affirm in your own heart that God would have wiped Adam and Eve out right then.

He had told Adam and Eve also knew the consequence of eating from the tree...

The command was simple.

You eat and you will die.

And if they died right here, God would be have been justified since they were clearly warned..

But God is merciful to the sinner, and though they both will die, God calls to them before he kills them...

This is the incomparable grace of God..

God says, “you eat, you die.”

Then you eat, but God doesn't bring your death right away.

God is slow to anger abounding in lovingkindness not wishing that any should perish but that all come to repentance...

And we don't just see that grace in the NT, we see it here in the OT..

Don't fall for the wrong teaching that says God was a God of wrath in the OT but a God of mercy in the NT...

God has always been merciful and He has always been wrathful...

That is why you better seek his mercy before you feel His wrath...

And that gospel of grace is right here in Genesis 3 and it is right here tonight in 2018...

One more sad reality of sin is found in verses 11-13..

### **III. Sin Leads to Blame (11-13)**

I really wish I had more time to preach on these verses because this consequence of sin like all the consequences is very much alive and well today...

Let's read verses 11-13...

***11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate." 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."***

God's question in verse 11 is another act of mercy...

If Adam was telling the truth that he was hiding because of nakedness, then how did he know he was naked?

He had been naked since he was created and he had never hid before...

So, how did he know he was naked?

Once again, God is graciously trying to lead admit to admit his sin...

God even leads him in the second half of verse 11 with a simple yes or no question..

Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat?

This is elementary school...

Just tell God “yes, Adam..

And get it over with and ask God for mercy...

But sin hardens us..

So many people refuse the gospel offer because they cannot bring themselves to admit their sin...

I am convinced that there are people in their 50s and 60s and 70s who come to church and have for any years and have remained in their unbelief....

And they hear the true gospel preached, and they are convince that they aren’t saved...

But their pride wouldn’t dare let them admit because that wild be an acknowledgment that they had lived in sin for so long and never repented...

They can't admit and they won't admit until they are one day forced to bow the knee to Christ as HE sentences them to eternal judgment..

Right here, Adam is bound by the same pride that he can't even say "Yes, I did it. I sinned against you God."

So what does he do?

Verse 12...

***12 The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate."***

Literally, the admission of guilt comes at the very end of the sentence...

If you look at the original language, the last word of the Hebrew sentence is "I ate."

And the first part of the sentence is simply a blame game from Adam...

The primary blame that Adam offers is to God Himself..

God, you gave the woman, and the woman gave me the fruit, so God you are the one to blame..

I am not responsible here...

And if I am, I am the last one to blame...

That's the sadness of sin..

Eve plays the same blame game..

Eve tells God that it is the serpent's fault, which by the way is also blame on God since Eve sees God as the creator of the serpent...

She doesn't know that Satan had possessed the serpent..

For all she knows, this creation of God had deceived her..

So here we have two people who have only known the goodness and grace of God, yet when faced with their sin, they blame Him....

If there is any disturbing trend in our culture and even in the church, it is the victim mentality...

People sin, blame it others, and then play the victim.

Well, I know I got mad but that wasn't my fault..

It is that sorry customer service...

Well, I know I am bitter but I have every right to be...

The people in that church don't treat me right..

The world and the church are often filled with people that think others are out to get them...

No one today accepts responsibility for their sin...

It is ALWAYS someone else's fault...

I see kids that pick this mentality up from their parents..

They are victims in their schools of teachers that are out to get them...

They are victims on their sports teams because the coaches don't like them...

And on and on it goes...

This blame game never ends...

And eventually people find a way to blame God for their sin..

God, I wouldn't complain if you hadn't made me so poor...

God, I wouldn't lose my patience if you wouldnt put such unreasonable people around me..



This victim mentality infects so many people today, and it spreads like the common cold...

Adam and Eve should have simply owned up to their sin.

Confessed it to God and waited for the consequences..

Instead, Adam and Eve hide from God, lie to God, and put the blame on God for their sin...

And everyone who is descended from them has it in their sinful nature to do the same thing...

## **Conclusion**

So where does that leave us?

What do we need to learn from this sad look at sin's victory?

### **#1 - God is good.**

God is good.

God is merciful.

God is eager to forgive the guilty sinner.

In one day, Adam and Eve went from seeing God as only good to seeing God as only bad.

They hiding, their lying, their blaming is a result of seeing God as someone who is to be feared.

Look, the fear of God is good as long it causes us to run to Him...

God is only to be feared after we have rejected His goodness and mercy.

God is good.

Resist the temptation to see him as anything else, and correct your friends and family who seek to blame Him for all their troubles.

## **#2 - Man is sinful.**

We must embrace this truth if we ever hope to be right with God and have a right view of the world..

We are to blame for our sinful actions.

The responsibility for sin lies with us.

Your wife doesn't make you sin.

Your family doesn't make you sin.

The cashier at the grocery store doesn't make you sin.

The person who can't drive doesn't make you sin.

The preacher and deacons don't make you sin.

You sin because you desire to sin and disobey God.

Instead of teaching our children who to blame for their troubles, we need to teach them personal responsibility...

If not, we will raise children who reject the name of Christ and simply blame Him for their troubles...

### **#3 - The gospel of Christ is beautiful.**

Once we arrive at the conclusion that we sin against God.

Once we arrive at the conclusion that our sin deserves justice...

WE are forced to turn to the word of God to find relief..

And God through the gospel of Christ offers relief for those willing to own up to their sins, turn from them, and follow the commands of Christ...

I understand that these verses upset a lot of people because they paint a really ugly picture of who we are...

Yet, as ugly as we are, Christ is equally beautiful....

You will never see the beauty of Christ until you see the ugliness of yourself..

And you'll never see the beauty of Christ apart from the Bible...

Let me end with this passage that speaks of the glory of the face of Christ that comes to guilty sinner...

2 Cor 4:1-6..

*1 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, 2 but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled [a]to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this [b]world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving [c]so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants [d]for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*

Let us pray.