



Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." – Genesis 1:26-2:25

Why did Adam and Eve suddenly change from being innocent beings who felt no shame to being naked, afraid, and hiding from God? And what can God's response to them teach us today?

Freedom Within Limits

God created Adam and Eve in His own image. Not as robots, but as people with choices. God told Adam he was free to eat from every tree in the Garden except one, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Although this command was meant to protect them, it seems that Adam never fully shared it with Eve.

Their temptation to disobey began the same way it begins with us today – they questioned God's truth. Satan, in the form of a serpent, chose to question Eve, who seemed unprepared to defend the truth of God's words. Eve let her own desires drive her, and she took a bite of the fruit. Then she gave it to Adam, who ate it too.

The Blame Game

When God came to the garden looking for Adam and Eve, He found them hiding in shame and fear, having covered their nakedness with leaves. Exactly the opposite of the innocence they had when they were first created. Then their blame game started when God asked them about eating from the forbidden tree.

Adam blamed both God and Eve when he said, "It was the woman you put here with me." Then he continued to deny any responsibility by saying, "She gave me the fruit, and I ate it." Then Eve blamed the serpent. "He deceived me, and I ate." However, even though they never confessed or took responsibility, God continued to show them grace.

God's Loving Response

God responded to Adam's and Eve's sin with both punishment and loving care. First, God cursed the serpent and declared that the seed of the woman – the promised Messiah would ultimately crush Satan and redeem the world from sin. (Genesis 3:15) This is the first mention of the gospel - God's eternal plan for the redemption of man through Jesus Christ.

God then imposed severe life changes on the man and the woman who were used to living in a perfect world. He said the woman would suffer in childbearing. The man would face difficulty in working the soil to produce food. But the most dramatic changes came from God's acts of love and grace.

God clothed Adam and Eve in animal-skin garments. The first blood sacrifice was performed by God and foreshadowed Jesus' blood sacrifice on the cross to cover our sin. Finally, God banished Adam and Eve from the garden as an act of grace to protect them from eating from the Tree of Life and living eternally in a state of sin.

There is a Serpent in your Garden

How do you think God responds when you sin? Do you imagine Him watching you from a celestial courtroom, waiting to catch you and condemn you? Or is He the loving Father we see in Genesis, who gives us freedom within limits, and constantly calls you back into fellowship with Him? Here are three important truths to help you in your own journey:

Life is a spiritual battle. Satan's strategy has always been to tempt people to become their own God rather than to follow the God who made us in His image. How does being more aware of your sinful tendencies help you in your own battles?

Sin must be covered. Adam and Eve tried to cover their own sin by hiding and blaming. But they never confessed and repented. Still, God covered their sin with a blood sacrifice. Are you hiding and blaming? Or are you trusting Jesus as God's own sacrifice by confessing and repenting?

God has always had a plan. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was never God's Plan B. Titus 1:3, Ephesians 1:3-4, and many other passages make it clear that, before the beginning of time, God promised to rescue us through His own Son. Have you stopped trying to cover your own sin and allowed Jesus to cover it for you?



Joy For Your Journey,
Andy Raub
andy@andymraub.com