

Series: Great Questions – week 1

CDOBC – beginning on 10/18/09

Title: “Hiding From God”

Genesis 3:9 ~ October 18, 2009

OBJECTIVE: To help us realize that we can't hide from God and He calls us to confess and repent from our sins.

Announcements

- Welcome / guests – communication cards
- Welcome Class – 10/21 or 10/28
- Annual mtg – Nov. 1st after 2nd service
- Fall Festival - we are still in need of candy-we need to fill 300 bags with candy - need more help with set up and clean up.
- Check bulletin for ministry details

Opening Prayer

Today begins a new series: “The Greatest Questions in the Bible”

There are many great questions in our world...why is the sky blue?...why do we lose our keys more than anything else?

Funny Questions:

- Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are dead?
- Why do banks charge a fee for "insufficient funds" when they know there is no money in the account?
- Why doesn't glue stick to the bottle?
- Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?
- Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?
- Why did Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?
- Whose idea was it to put an S in the word *lisp*?
- Why does a round pizza come in a square box?
- Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

However, some of the greatest questions we can ask have already been asked – and they are recorded in the pages of Scripture. Sometimes it's a question that God asks – most of the time a biblical character asks a question - and their question has been recorded for all eternity in God's inspired Word.

What I hope to do is answer some of these questions that we find in the pages of Scripture. I figure that if the question was good enough to make it into God's Word – then it's probably pretty important for us to ask the same question and to seek the answer as God has revealed it to us.

We begin this new series this morning – right where we left off with our previous series – with a look at the destruction of sin and God's response to it. All of Biblical history – all of our Christian life and the promises of God that we put our hope in – rely on the truth of our sin and God's remedy for it in Christ.

Turn to Genesis 3

There are actually four questions in our passage this morning – but we will focus primarily on the first one because the answer has much to say about our present reality and the experience of mankind throughout history.

Sin creates a fear of God. vs. 6-11

Read vs. 6-11

In verse 9, the question before us is God's rhetorical question to His creatures Adam and Eve – “Where are you?”

After their sin, Adam and Eve's eyes were opened not to the greater wisdom and knowledge promised by Satan, but to the evil in their life and to the differences between them. For whatever reason, their differences caused them to take some

leaves and make coverings. The next event in the account is that God arrives. Many scholars believe that this was actually a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ – and they believe that in this form, God made a regular habit of having fellowship with Adam and Eve. They had a relationship with the Lord – and the sound of God in the Garden was not a new one – but one they recognized instantly. When they heard His presence among them, they hid in the trees.

Illus. – Growing up – playing baseball in the cul-de-sac – the Bruno’s house was situated down the third base line – more than once a foul ball hit a window – and we were all like cock-roaches when the lights are turned on!

Guilt motivates us to run away from authority. Guilt causes us to avoid accountability – to avoid the person we have wronged.

We cannot *avoid* God.

Many people appear to do a good job of avoiding God. They live their life as if God didn’t exist. Although, for some, they live with such defiance toward God that in their effort to avoid God, He is constantly on their mind – He is their motivation for living as they do! Some pagans live with a greater awareness of God than some Christians!

God’s question – “Where are you” was rhetorical. He knew where they were. He wanted them to confess and repent of their sin. God’s love is great – His love for Adam and Eve was great – His love for us is great – their sin - our sin – does not cause God’s love for us to diminish in any way. In fact, His love for us is seen more vividly because of our sin. Because of our sin we see the extent of God’s love. Because

of evil and sin, we see the faithfulness of God to humanity and we see His patience – His longsuffering with us. We see in the person of Christ the extent of His love for us in that “...while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom. 5:8).

Adam answers God’s call to them, and confesses in part why they were hiding from Him. “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

Now we know something has changed because earlier in the creation account, we read “The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.” Gen. 2:25

For whatever reason, the shame and guilt of their sin caused them to be ashamed of their nakedness. When God heard his answer, He doesn’t waste any time – but goes directly to the core issue – and asks the next two questions in the passage: “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

God is still searching for a confession and repentance.

Adam’s answer does it’s best to avoid this, and blames God and the woman for his problems...sound familiar anyone?

At the end of Adam’s reply to God’s questions, he does confess that he ate.

Read vs. 12-13

God then turns to Eve and asks: “What is this you have done?”

Like Adam, Eve doesn’t take responsibility, but blames the serpent – but reluctantly confesses that she also ate.

So, looking at the four questions of God in this passage, what can we learn about Him and what He wants us to do when we sin? Where his interrogating questions a fit of rage – or were they purposeful and loving in nature? Was He trying to

belittle His creatures or trying to rescue them from their own decisions?

I believe we can learn that:

God desires us to confess our sin to Him.

If you follow the line of questioning, it seems to me that God simply wanted the truth – He wanted Adam and Eve to admit their sin – to confess their sin to Him.

Notice that God doesn't question the serpent – who is Satan (Rev. 12:9). Why? He knew the serpent – He knew the enmity that already existed between He and Satan – that Satan was unwilling to confess and repent but only wanted to usurp God and His throne. It's to us – to the jewel of His creation that God asks four specific questions with the hope of confession, followed by repentance.

Our sin can only be covered by God vs. 21

Adam and Eve were guilty – they knew it – and they tried to fix their guilt on their own. They covered up their nakedness. Although they were truly naked, their nakedness was not the ultimate problem! Their sin was the problem and their awareness of their nakedness was the symptom.

No matter how good you are at covering up your sin or the symptoms of your sin, our covering is never enough. Only God can cover our sin.

Are you a “Mr. / Mrs. Fix-It”?

How do we try and fix our own guilt instead of allowing the love and blood of Christ fix it?

We try to earn God's acceptance.

We serve out of guilt – instead of joy and freedom.

We view ourselves as worthless – but God sees you are a fellow-heir of Christ – as His child.

But only God can forgive our sin – because all sin is primarily and offense toward God. If someone sins toward you – and I offer my forgiveness to them – my forgiveness is misplaced and ineffective. I wasn't the one wronged – so my forgiveness is unwarranted. This is why we can't cover our own sin. Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves together.

“Adam took leaves from an inanimate, unfeeling tree; God deprived an animal of life, that the shame of His creature might be relieved. This was the last thing Adam would have thought of doing. To us life is cheap and death familiar, but Adam recognized death as the punishment of sin.” Creation and

Blessing, Alan P. Ross, p. 149, quoting Marcus Dods, The Book of Genesis, pp. 25-26)

When we try to deal with our sin out of our own efforts, we fall short of the requirements that God's holiness demands. As a foreshadowing of Jesus' death to cover our sins, God kills an animal so that Adam and Eve could be properly covered – not only their nakedness, but first and foremost as a vivid reality that sin brings death – and our new life is only found in God and His sacrifice – His covering for us.

Application

Where are you? God is calling out to you!

Christian – Where are you? Have you gone astray from God – have you sinned and are you hiding from God? Are you afraid of Him because of your sin? He calls out to you and wants you to confess your sins to Him – and repent of your ways.

Non-Christian – God is calling out to you...Where are you? He loves you. He has died for you – paid the price for your sins. But, He won't find you hiding in the trees and drag you out and berate you. He loves you and is calling out to you – inviting you to come to Him – to confess your sins – to give you life to Him. Won't you let Him cover your sins?

Close in prayer