

SERMON NOTES – June 14, 2020

“To be a Christ-centered community, making disciples and loving people.”

Foundations: Life Lessons from Genesis

When Adam & Eve sinned, they tried to hide from God thinking they actually could. But our loving Heavenly Father knew what had happened and what they were doing. Much like when a child wants to play hide and seek, and the parent knows what was going on. It was a time of “firsts” for them. First evil. First disobedience. First sin. First broken Shalom. First broken fellowship with their Heavenly Father.

In all this, Adam and Eve didn’t escape the consequences of their actions that God had said would happen. But God has revealed Himself as our loving Heavenly Father, and when they sinned, He reached out to this first couple and introduces them to grace by covering their sin with the skins of animals. It’s an amazing picture of our Father’s love for us. It’s an amazing picture of how the Bible speaks about how there is no payment for sin without the shedding of blood. It’s a foreshadowing of how Jesus would be sacrificed and His blood shed for our sin.

It’s later in the New Testament, in one of Jesus’ familiar parables, “the prodigal son,” that we glean a clear picture of our Heavenly Father, and the way He views His children when we sin. His grace is a rich and amazing gift for us. This is indeed a foundational chapter of the Bible.

As you know, next Sunday many of us will be regathering after having spent many weeks apart. Some from our EBF family are eager and excited to see one another and regather. Others have compromised health and will not be able to meet with us. Still others, have some anxiety, fear or are simply not comfortable meeting with a larger group. In all this, it could be tempting to look down on a brother or sister in Christ who doesn’t share the same perspective as you when it comes to regathering. But Paul addressed a similar potential division in Romans 14 that I think would be great for all of us to prayerfully read and consider as we prepare for next Sunday.

Here are some passages of scripture to read and questions to talk about with others this week: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21; Genesis 3; Luke 15:11-32; Romans 14-15:7.

1. Why do you think Adam and Eve tried to hide from God?
2. What do you think is the tone of God’s voice, when you read about God calling out to Adam & Eve asking, “where are you?” Why do you think that is his tone?
3. If God were asking you, “Where are you? How would you answer him?”
4. Who do you see yourself as in the story of the prodigal son? Why?

5. Describe the tone of voice of the father in the story of the prodigal son? Why do you think that's the tone of his voice?
6. Why were Adam and Eve's fig leaves an adequate covering for their sin?
7. How does God covering Adam and Eve's nakedness with animal skins reveal the nature of our sin and the way God has dealt with it?
8. How does our sin interfere with our fellowship with others?
9. How does our sin interfere with our fellowship with God?
10. What's one thing you believe God is speaking to you about from this week's study?