

Before The Cross There Was The Promise

Genesis 2:6-7

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 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.

- The first thing I want you to notice is, Adam was with Eve when she ate the forbidden fruit. I use to think that Eve snuck off, ate the fruit, and then tricked her husband into eating it.
- Notice what the scripture says: She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it! He was with her!! That's some kind of guy, letting his wife eat the forbidden fruit first. Was he waiting to see if she would blow up turn into a frog before he ate some?
- Now notice what happened next; their eyes were opened and both of them realized they were naked so they sewed fig leaves together to make coverings for themselves. Here is what a fig leaf looks like (show picture) and here is what we think Eve looked like in her fig leaf gown. (Show picture of woman in gown) but here is an accurate picture of the shame they were trying to cover, (show picture).
- Our own efforts to hide the sin and shame in our lives fail to cover it. All we manage to produce is more sin and more shame.
 - So God comes to walk with Adam and Eve and finds out what has happened. God pronounces judgment on them, but look what else he does. Vs. 21. "The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them."

- Here is the picture of the “promise,” God had to shed innocent blood to clothe Adam and Eve completely. Even as God was pronouncing judgment on humanity He was showing us a picture of the promise.
- The blood that was shed from an innocent animal is a picture of Christ himself giving up his life so that we can be forever covered by his blood!!
- The story of redemption wasn’t something hastily thrown together as Gods quick answer to man’s primary issue. No, Gods response to man’s sin was written before time began. Revelation 13:8 “All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast, all whose name is written in the book of life belongs to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.”
- It’s a beautiful picture of God’s great and passionate love for man. This is Gods immediate response.

- Lets take a look at the **Submissive Response.**

- Genesis 22 tells the story of Abraham and his son Isaac. God had told Abraham to take is one and only son to a mountain and sacrifice him there. Vs.9 “When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an alter there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the alter, on top of the wood.”
- I want you to notice something; Isaac wasn’t a small child and Abraham was over 100 years old. Isaac could have easily pushed his father away and fled, but instead he chose submission.
- Here to is a type and shadow of Christ. Isaiah 52:7 “He was oppressed and afflicted yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he didn’t open his mouth.”

- Jesus remained silent before Pilot and the chief priests and Herod. Jesus's submissive response changed the very course of humanity. Philippians 2:8 "And being found in appearance as a man he humbled himself and became obedient to death-even death on a cross."
- Jesus wasn't kicked out of heaven to be an obligatory conflicted savior.
- Jesus said in Mark 10:45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."
- The promise is Jesus; the remedy for sin is the cross. The entire Old Testament speaks of the soon coming King and the New Testament proclaims through the mouth of John the Baptist, "Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world."