

What Can I Expect From God If I Sin?

(Genesis 3:9-24)

INTRODUCTION:

- A. "It is hard to find a good man and it is impossible to find a perfect one."
- B. **SCRIPTURE:** Rom.3:23 – *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (cf.Rom.3:9-23); Since all men have sinned and since all men are sinners then it is important to understand *God's attitude* toward fallen humanity.
- C. Another important question from our Genesis series:
 - a. **What can I expect from God when I sin?**
- D. WELCOME/TEXT Genesis 3:9-24.

You can expect that...

I. He will already know about your sin (3:8-11):

- A. Adam's breath smelled like forbidden fruit so he tried to cover his naked body in fig leaves (Gen.3) but God saw all the way through it.
 - i. We can never escape the observation of God.
 - ii. There is no hiding place in the heights and no deep cover in the depths that can conceal us from His omniscience.
 - iii. **SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139:1-12** - ¹ *You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.* ² *You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.* ³ *You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.* ⁴ *Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.* ⁵ *You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.* ⁶ *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.* ⁷ *Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?* ⁸ *If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there* ⁹ *If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,* ¹⁰ *even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.* ¹¹ *If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"* ¹² *even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you."*
- B. Adam is not the only one who has attempted in futility to hide his sin from God:
 - i. Murdering Cain tried to lure his unsuspecting brother
 - 1. out to a remote and witness-free location (Gen.4)
 - 2. but God had a front row seat, witnessed the whole thing, and
 - 3. knew exactly where to hang the crime scene tape and where to draw a chalk outline;
 - ii. **Achan** thought he could bury his stolen wealth and his crime under his tent (Josh.7)
 - 1. But God not only knew the location of the secret stash, He had an itemized accounting of every penny...

2. so God buried Achan under a pile of rubble and stone just like the city (Jericho) where Achan stole the goods;
 - iii. **David** thought that no one would notice that he had the perfume of another man's wife in his royal bedroom (II Sam.11-12)
 1. but God dispatched Nathan the prophet to show him
 2. there is no cover up for an under the covers crime;
 - iv. The prodigal prophet **Jonah** thought he could escape God if he would go far enough West to the ends of the earth (Jonah 1-2),
 1. but God sent wind, wave, and whale¹ to track him down and bring him home;
 - v. **Judas** thought he could disguise his stab in the back with a kiss on the cheek
 1. but Jesus clearly saw his betraying lips even in the cover of darkness;
- C.** Just like God said to the **7 churches of Asia Minor** (Rev.2-3), "*I know your works*", he is saying the same thing today. Let's all be clear today:
- i. you cannot delete your internet or texting history from the main frames of heaven;
 - ii. you cannot hide your addictions in a back alley that has not already been mapped by God;
 - iii. You cannot have a rendezvous with a secret lover because there are no undisclosed locations;
 - iv. Your lies do not disappear from God's radar;
 - v. Your cheating never goes off the grid;
 - vi. There is no scam intricate enough, no dark night black enough, no alibi air-tight enough to fool the Almighty.
 - vii. You cannot trick the All-Knowing-One, you cannot lie to The Truth, and you cannot fool the One called Wisdom.
- D. SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 15:3** tells us "***The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.***"
- i. **Hebrews 4:13** - "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

II. He will hold you accountable (3:12-13):

- A.** God does not allow ***finger pointing, excuse making, or blame shifting.***
- B. POINT:** Let's be clear on the spelling of sin, it has an "I" in the middle of it in case any of us has forgotten!
- C. POINT:** There is a great propensity to blame others –
 - i. Sarah gets mad at Hagar (Gen.16:1ff); (Ex. 32:21-24)
 - ii. Aaron tells Moses the people made me build the altar and the idol;

¹ I know the Bible does not say "whale"...it just sounded good here.

- iii. Saul says the people kept the spoils (I Sam.15:1f; also I Sam.13:11-12); (Matt 27:24)
- iv. Pilate washes his hands of the decision against Jesus.
- D. **POINT:** The only thing greater than the number of sins in the world is the ***number of excuses used to absolve ourselves from them.***
- E. **Illust.** If my grades are bad it's my teacher's fault, if my job rating is unsatisfactory then it is my bosses fault, if our team lost then the ref made a bad call, etc.
- F. **SCRIPTURE: Matthew 12:36,** *"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."*
- G. **Ecclesiastes 11:9** *"Young man, it's wonderful to be young! Enjoy every minute of it. Do everything you want to do; take it all in. But remember that you must give an account to God for everything you do."*
- H. **Ecclesiastes 12:13** *"Here is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is the duty of every person. 14God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad."*
- I. **Hebrews 9:27** *"And just as it is destined that each person dies only once and after that comes judgment...."*

III. He will initiate loving discipline for you (3:12-19):

- A. We need to notice several things about God's discipline in this context:
 - i. ***He did not destroy Adam and Eve, He punished them.***
 - 1. Noah's deluge and Sodom's brimstone and hell's fire let us know that if God wants to render final judgment that He knows how to do so.
 - 2. In our context, Adam still gets to be a farmer and Eve still gets to be a mother.
 - ii. ***He did not punish them disproportionately to their sin but punished them in accordance with their crimes.***
 - 1. Illust. **JOKE:** Wish that could be said of parenting. Let me illustrate: ***If your baby is beautiful and perfect, never cries or fusses, sleeps on schedule and burps on demand, an angel all the time, you're the grandma, not the parent ~ Theresa Bloomingdale.***
 - 2. Illust. You want to be the perfect parent. But something happens to you through the course of the day. ***"When my kids become wild and unruly, I use a nice, safe playpen. When they're finished, I climb out."* ~ Erma Bombeck.**
 - 3. Illust. You know those days when you start the day as Mary Poppins but you end the day as Cruella Deville?²
 - 4. When this happens our tendency is to issue punishment disproportionate with the crime.
 - a. Dad says, "Did you spill that milk? I said, did you spill that milk?" Child sobbing says, "yeeeeessssss."

² <http://parentingtouchstones.com/funny-children-quotes-and-jokes-about-parenting>.

5. Still angry dad, “You can’t eat for 1 year!”

Illust. God’s punishments in Genesis 3 are quite even-handed. **The serpent** who **exercised dominion over Adam and Eve**, causing them to return to the dust of death, will **himself crawl at their feet and eat the dust**;

The woman who is the **first to give birth to sin** and the one who assumed headship over her husband is going to have increased pain in childbirth and increased submission to her husband;

The man who loved the **voice of the creature Eve** more than the Voice of God will have to work a cursed creation that will not easily respond to his efforts.

Further: If the woman does not usurp authority over the husband, and insists on her own way, then the man is forced to be responsible, and can’t blame the wife anymore for his sins or lack of responsibility.

iii. ***He did not forget to mix a good dose of grace with His punishment.*** Adam and Eve may have to suffer the consequences of their choices but God’s heartache is greater than their punishment.

1. He feels the ***sting of discipline*** in His heart.
2. Because He still loves them with undiminished commitment He still allows them to stay married, have kids, tend to the earth,
 - a. remain as image bearers (Gen.5:1f), stay as an integral part of His grand story, and keep in relationship with heaven.
3. You say, ***“What grace? God kicked them out of the Garden and condemned them to die!”***
 - a. But you see, if God allowed them to stay in the Garden then they could have eaten from the Tree of Life and lived an eternal physical life without the fellowship of God.
 - b. They would be ***spiritually dead forever!***
 - c. The fact that they are going to die drives them back to the only Source of Life (Jn.14:6).

B. The Bible is clear that **God disciplines those He loves** –

- i. **SCRIPTURE:** Heb.12:5-11 – ⁵ *And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶ because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.” ⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. ⁹ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! ¹⁰ They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share*

in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”

C. Getting caught and in trouble by a loving parent is a good thing!

IV. He will offer a sin-covering for you (3:21-24):

- A. Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves together to try to cover their own shame, but God knew that only a **substitutionary atonement** could cover the ugly stain of sin.
- B. **ILLUS:** “Follow the blood trail.”
- C. Animal sacrifice is the blood trail that leads us to the Hero (Jn.1:29).

V. He will send His Son for you (3:15,24):

- A. **Adam and Jesus share the same umbilical cord.**
 - i. When we come to the cross, we must not fail to see it in the shadow of the Garden.
 - ii. When we look at the face of the crucified Christ we must not fail to see in Him the resemblance of Adam.
- B. Jesus was the **second Adam** (see my notes in sermon “Paradise Lost and Found” in the cross folder).
- C. On the cross **He took Adam’s place** (Barabbas),
 - i. He hung on Adam’s **forbidden tree**,
 - ii. He was draped in **Adam’s nakedness**,
 - iii. He wore as a crown **Adam’s thorns**,
 - iv. the spit oozing down His body was **Adam’s shame**,
 - v. the insurrectional charge (King of the Jews) above His head was Adam’s crime,
 - vi. He was **forsaken by the Father thus assuming Adam’s fate...**
 - vii. but when He fully died as a man without the prerogatives of God then He **reversed the curse of Adam** who left his prerogatives as man and tried to be equal with God.
 - viii. **Christ removed Adam’s sword wielding cherubim** and 3 days later He walked out of **Adam’s grave**.
 - ix. **When Christ’s flesh was torn, the veil of the temple was torn which had embroiled on it cherubim...** We come full circle... the barrier to God’s presence and paradise was removed by Christ’s substitutionary death!
 - x. **PRAISE GOD! PRAISE GOD! He has sent His Son for you!**
- D. Adam ate the **most expensive meal in history and Jesus paid the bill!**
 - i. He then offered us a bread and wine meal free of charge!

VI. He will stomp the Devil's head for you (3:15):

- A. **POINT:** The Devil kicked up a little dust in Eden (*Adamah* is the Hebrew word for ground);
- i. the Devil kicked up a little dust at Calvary
 - ii. But three days later Jesus kicked up a little dust when He rose from the grave and put His ***nailed scarred foot on the head of the serpent*** and made Him eat dust...
 - iii. and when He comes back in the end He is going ***to kick up the grave dust*** of every **deceased saint and turn every silent cemetery into a jubilant sanctuary of the redeemed!**

VII. He will prepare a glorious future for you:

- A. A comparison of Genesis 1-3 and Revelation 21-22 is not only quite interesting it is ***deeply inspiring.***
- B. In Genesis God's walk with man was interrupted, but in Revelation man's walk with God is forever uninterrupted;
- i. There is gold in the Garden but there is a city of gold in Revelation;
 - ii. There are precious stones in Genesis but the gates of the city are made of precious stones in Revelation;
 - iii. The tree of life is forbidden to the fallen in Genesis but it freely served to the saved in Revelation;
 - iv. In Genesis there is **sin, tears, a curse, and death** but in Revelation there is **no more sin, no more tears, no more curse, and no more death!**
 - v. In Genesis there is the **triumph of the serpent** but in Revelation there is nothing but the **triumph of The Lamb!** This time the serpent is sent into exile along with his followers instead of humanity.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Notice the contrast between the very first two questions in scripture:
- a. The first question in the Bible is **Satan questioning the goodness of an undeniably good God!**
 - b. The second question is **God seeking an undeniably sinful Adam!**
- B. Satan seeks to discredit God but God seeks everyone discredited by sin.
- C. We do not seek God for redemption, He seeks us with redemption.