

God with Adam and Eve in the garden

Genesis 3: 8-15: Mark 3:20-35

Oddly I still remember coming home from infant school, and I had learnt a new word. I was so pleased that Dad was home and I went running up to him saying Hello Daddy Bugger off. Well this resulted in being smacked and sent to my room, where I sat and sulked. Firstly, I didn't understand what I had said and secondly Dad never smacked it was always Mum. So when I was let out, I continued the sulk somewhere in the garden. This ended in a game of hide and seek, I was found fed and forgiven.

The beginning of the book of Genesis tells of the marvels of God's creation, from day and night, to sea and sky, birds animals and fish, ending with the creation of man made in God's image. God had created a perfect, harmonious world and placed the first humans, Adam and Eve, in the Garden of Eden. There, they lived in a state of innocent perfection without pain, suffering, or death. God dwelt among them in peace and harmony. They were given dominion over the earth and only one restriction: they were forbidden to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

In this garden every evening God would come and walk with them. It is a simple image, yet it reveals something profound about God. He is not a distant ruler watching humanity from afar. He is a God who desires relationship. He comes near. He walks with His people. Adam and Eve enjoyed communion with God. The garden was a place of fellowship, trust, and intimacy. God was not a stranger to them; His presence was their joy.

This joy is shattered when they eat from the forbidden tree of knowledge. When they hear God walking in the garden, they hide because they know that they have done wrong and they know that they are naked and they are ashamed. His first words are not words of condemnation but of invitation: "Where are you?" God knows

exactly where Adam is. The question is not for God's benefit but for Adam's. It is an invitation to step out of hiding and return to relationship God does. He does not abandon them. He does not turn away in disgust. Instead, He comes looking for them.

God is offering the same invitation to us today. He's not playing hide and seek with us, he's calling us into communion with him. Do we hide from Him? Why, are we like Adam and Eve when they hear the God who created them in love comes near, and they run away.

What do we hold in our lives that can separate us from the God who wants us to have a deep communion with him to share the Joy. Like Adam, do we hide behind excuses, the women told me to eat, the serpent told me to eat, and do we hide behind pride, our achievements. Do we hide behind God if we feel unworthy of his love? Whatever we hide behind, God still come seeking, and God still wants to walk with us.

In Psalm 139: We hear **the words**

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;

And further on

13-14 we hear the words

¹³ For you created my inmost being;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

your works are wonderful,

I know that full well.

There's no hiding from God full stop. He knows us inside out.

This is a theme throughout, the whole Bible. Humanity keeps wandering away, and God keeps coming near. Humanity hides, and God seeks. Humanity breaks the relationship, and God works to restore it. The God who walked in Eden is the same God who walks with His people throughout history. He walked with Noah through the flood. He walked with Abraham into an unknown future. He walked with Moses through the wilderness. He walked with Israel despite their failures. And ultimately, God walked among us in Jesus Christ.

This is reflected in our reading from Marks Gospel. Jesus is surrounded by crowds. People misunderstand Him. Religious leaders accuse Him. Even members of His own family struggle to understand Him.

Yet Jesus continues His mission. He continues walking among people, bringing God's presence into their lives.

The God of the garden is the God of the Gospel. He seeks the lost. He confronts sin. He offers mercy. He promises victory over evil. He gathers a new family around His Son. When Adam and Eve hid, God came looking for them. When humanity wandered far from Him, God sent Jesus. And today, Christ still calls each one of us out of hiding and into His family.

May we answer His call with faith, trust in His promise, and rejoice that through Christ we belong to the family of God. May we not hide from him, may we live a life fulfilled and in Communion with God. He walks with us calls us and loves us despite our sin and failings. This is the God who wants to dwell among us. We hear the completion of this invitation in the book of Revelation.

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

Amen.