

TEXT: Genesis 3:8-15

THEME: WHERE ARE YOU?

1. Heeding His Call to Repentance?
2. Hearing the Gospel Promise?

Dear Christian Friends:

WHERE ARE YOU? HEEDING HIS CALL TO REPENTANCE?

When caller ID on your phone tells you who is calling, it sure makes a difference, doesn't it? If it is anxiously awaited news about a baby to be born or a medical test result, or a job interview, you pick up quickly. If it's an unknown number or clearly a telemarketer ID, you may pick up hesitantly or not at all. My phone has a feature I really appreciate; it identifies suspected spam callers for me.

In our text, God was calling for Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. They were hiding in the trees. Adam claimed the reason was their nakedness. Oh, they were naked all right. Their sin lay shamefully bare. It hadn't turned out the way the devil had promised: **"Your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God" (Genesis 3:5)**. They had been like God, created in his holy image, but now they were naked with sin. All the fig leaves in the world couldn't cover that up!

The One calling Adam and Eve was **"the LORD God."** The name **"God"** highlights the power of which Adam and Eve were quite aware. He is the Creator who made the vast universe. He formed and positioned the heavenly bodies. He formed man from the dust, breathed life into him, and gave him a wonderful companion. What power! And Adam and Eve had just deliberately disobeyed God! What would he do to them with his power?

CUE 16.4—But his name **"LORD"** also highlights his faithful grace. That grace shined as the Lord dealt with these fallen sinners. The Lord's call to Adam and Eve was a call to repentance. He wasn't just seeking information. He knew where they were hiding and what they had done. He wanted them to know of his forgiving love and that their lives, now turned upside down by sin, could be renewed through repentant faith in him.

Has your sin caused your world to be turned upside down? Do you feel like hiding from God in shame? Remember, the One who calls to you is the Lord God. By his power and faithful love, he triumphed over sin on Calvary's cross and covered your shame. He works repentance and new life to turn your upside-down life upright again through Christ. Where are you? God is calling you to the new life of repentance. However, repenting of your sin would mean nothing without God's promise.

So, ARE YOU HEARING THE GOSPEL PROMISE? Much of our lives is built on promises. The food I buy at the store carries a promise of goodness and freshness or I get my money back. A bride and groom promise to love and be faithful to each other “till death do us part.” Some promises are less weighty, like a friend promising to return a borrowed gadget, but promises are an important part of life’s structure.

The most important promise ever made is a part of our text for today, Genesis 3:15, **“I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel.”** It is the most important promise because the curse that Adam and Eve brought on themselves by their disobedience hangs over our heads too. God’s promise in Genesis 3:15 is called the Protevangelium, which means “the first gospel.” It was the first promise of the Savior recorded in Scripture. While the full picture of God’s gospel promise was rather sketchy at this point, the important details are all there. For one thing, the promised Savior would come from Eve’s offspring. This tells us that the Savior would be true man, born of a woman.

Second, and more important, it says that the Savior would crush Satan’s head. Like a hiker stepping on the head of a snake that threatens in his path, the Savior would crush and defeat Satan, who had just won the initial battle by leading Adam and Eve to rebel against God. It would take divine power for the Savior to defeat Satan. So, the Savior had to be true God himself.

Third, while God told Satan that the promised Savior **“will crush your head,”** he also added, **“and you will crush his heel.”** Like that hiker stepping on the head of the snake in his path and being bitten in the process, the Savior would also suffer in defeating our enemy, the devil.

That gospel promise was fulfilled when Jesus Christ, God’s Son, born of the virgin Mary, went to the cross, and came from the tomb alive to seal the victory and crush Satan for us. Because God kept his promise, the curse of sin, death, and hell that fell on all human beings after the fall in Eden has been removed.

Where are you when it comes to hearing this promise? What does it mean to you? Has it changed your life? Knowing and believing God’s gospel promise, have you promised yourself to him? Promises are important, aren’t they? Cherish God’s gospel promise to you! If every member of our Trinity family cherished God’s gospel promise, we would have no worship attendance delinquency problem. Our Bible study classes would be standing room only. We would have to come up with new ministries to fund with our generous offerings, instead of struggling so hard to finance the ministries our gracious God has given us. Cherish God’s gospel promise to you! Amen.

Prayer of the Church

O Lord God, light of the world and saving strength of your people, we thank you for the gift of your gospel promise. Implant it in the hearts of your people, so that, set free from the power of Satan and the fear of death, we may live to serve and honor you.

Let your gospel promise shine in our homes, that we may grow in divine knowledge and spiritual understanding. Let us dwell together in love and serve one another in kindness and humility.

Watch over the sick, the sorrowing, the anxious, and the weary. Preserve those who are in any danger of body or soul. We ask you especially to watch over Harley Birsching as he has a defibrillator implanted this Wednesday. Grant success to the procedure and Harley a speedy recovery. We also ask you to be with the family of Edna Lijewski, whom you have taken home to heaven. Give them hope, joy, and peace in your gospel promise of the resurrection, made certain by our Savior's resurrection from the dead. Supply us by the grace of Jesus with the Spirit's power, that we may ever be comforted by your truth and sustained by your love, so evident in the first gospel promise.

For these and all the other things you know we need, we confidently ask in the name of him who gave himself for us that we might live through him, Jesus our Lord, who taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER in today's language