

First Wednesday Advent
Genesis 3:14-15, 20
December 1, 2010

In these verses, we get to see God's reaction to what had just happened. God's reaction does show God to be the holy and just Judge. But it especially shows us that God is the merciful, compassionate, gracious Forgiver of sin, summed up in His special Old Testament Name, the LORD, I Am that I Am. God in His central Being is the Savior.

Advent is the season of preparation for Jesus' coming, whether we think of Jesus coming in the flesh at Bethlehem of the virgin Mary or whether it is Jesus coming on the Last Day or whether it is Jesus coming to hearts by means of His Word and Sacraments. In each of these ways of coming, Jesus comes as our Savior.

This evening, on the basis of these words of God, we see Adam's role in God's Preparing the world for the Coming of His Son as Our Savior.

The first half of this third chapter of the first book of the Bible, the all important book of Genesis, tells us how humanity came to be sinful.

Sinfulness did not come to humanity because of how God made them. God made them holy, righteous, with minds and hearts perfectly in tune with God's mind and heart.

The first sinner, satan, introduced it, offered it to Eve and then to Adam. The devil could do no more than that. Our first parents had to accept the offer. That they did. It doesn't even make any sense, what they did. We'll never make sense of it, because sin never makes sense, even through at the time of the sinning, the sinner always seems to think he/she has good reason to sin.

When Adam and Eve sinned, humanity had become sinful. I say humanity had become sinful because Adam and Eve were all of humanity. I do not mean that in this way that Adam and Eve are just symbolic of humanity. No, Adam and Eve were the actual and only two human beings in existence at the beginning. Since they were the only two human beings in existence, they were also all of humanity then.

This fact is a big deal. It makes what Adam and Eve did was more tragic. It's what made you and me sinful. It's what made every single human being ever sinful.

You heard me read the clear words of Romans 5 this evening. God there teaches us that sin entered the world through one man (Adam) and death thereby entered the world through the sin of that one man. In this way, death came to all men (people) because all sinned in Adam. In that unbroken chain of connection with Adam, by birth, we can see on part of it; universal death. We do all die. Had sin not happened, no one would die. So death is the universal evidence of (for) universal sinfulness.

Our inner sinfulness from Adam does, of course, show also in all the particular sins that we do in our lives, those sins of thought and attitude and emotions, and words and actions, those sins that violate God's ten laws of love for God and neighbor. Jesus gives a long list of sins and introduces that list with the words, "Out of the heart come...."

Adam's sin made a Savior from sin necessary if ever any human being was to come back to God, if ever any human being was to escape eternal death.

Holiness and justice would require only death. But God's mercy, love and grace moved God to plan and immediately announce to Adam (and Eve) a rescue from satan, the sinner.

In direct, deliberate, disobedience to God and in an effort to be gods, therefore idols, they turned their backs on God, treated Him as if He were awful and ended up destroying themselves. Since we are the problem, we cannot solve the problem. Only the real God can, because He's God.

So, God told satan, in front of Adam and Eve, that God, the LORD, Himself was going to put enmity between satan and the women.

Enmity is strong dislike, hatred. How would God accomplish that? He was already accomplishing it. He was preaching His holy law by telling sinners the truth about what sin was really doing to them. They felt guilt and shame and those things felt really bad. Their solution to that awful feeling was an attempt to deny, to lie, to pass the blame to someone else, to avoid and none of it worked. In fact, it increased and prolonged the guilt! God assured them of death!

But then God preached the Gospel to Adam and Eve. God cursed the devil by promising a Savior to undo satan's work. Satan would fight this Savior and try to destroy Him. Instead, satan would be crushed.

And to add insult to injury for the devil, the LORD God would do all this as One born of a woman, in the flesh, a human being.

Here God introduced Himself to two sinners, introduced Himself as their Savior, told them that He loved them so much that He'd make Himself one of us, the God/man, in order to defeat our enemy. That's what the name satan means, enemy.

As I share all this with you tonight, see what a wonderful Savior you have. He is an immediate, constant, almighty, totally devotedly loving Savior.

Seeing our desperate need and seeing our wonderful Savior are we not truly prepared, by faith in Him, to celebrate His actual coming the flesh to be that Savior and also prepared to receive Him joyfully when He comes on Judgment Day to take all His believers to eternal joy?

Is not this what enabled Adam to name his wife Eve, the living one, the mother of all the living, even though he had just heard about sure and certain death because of sin?

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This promise gave Adam hope and courage. God kept this promise. Jesus is God in the flesh, and He defeated satan, our enemy. That gives us hope, courage and joy. Amen.