

Summary

This sermon explores the creation account in Genesis 2-3, focusing on God's original design for mankind and how sin corrupted that design. Pastor Jason examines how God gave Adam three gifts under the banner of worship: work to enjoy, a will to obey, and a woman to love. The message emphasizes that Adam was created for face-to-face relationship with God, but sin entered through passivity and disobedience. The sermon contrasts the first tree (bringing sin and death) with the second tree (the cross, bringing forgiveness and life).

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together today, we come before You not hiding or pretending, but just as we are. We ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us through Your Word. Help us to be receptive to Your Spirit's leading and give us the courage to respond to whatever You are calling us to do. We pray that this time together would draw us closer to You and help us understand more deeply the relationship You desire to have with each of us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one job or task that you actually enjoy doing, even though others might consider it work or a chore?

Key Verses

1. Genesis 2:7
2. Genesis 2:15
3. Genesis 2:16-17
4. Genesis 2:18
5. Genesis 3:1
6. Genesis 3:6
7. Genesis 3:21
8. Romans 7

Questions

1. Adam was created for 'face-to-face relationship with God.' What does this mean for how we should approach our relationship with God today?

2. How do you see the three areas God gave Adam (work to enjoy, will to obey, woman to love) playing out in your own life? Which area do you struggle with most?
3. The sermon emphasized that Adam's biggest failure was not what he did, but what he didn't do - his passivity. Where in your life might you be struggling with passivity instead of taking godly action?
4. The enemy tries to make us question God's word, worth, and work. Which of these three areas do you find yourself doubting most often, and why?
5. How does understanding that work was part of God's original design (before the fall) change your perspective on your job or daily responsibilities?
6. **Pastor Jason** mentioned that when we sin, we should think 'I need help, call Dad' rather than 'don't tell Dad.' How can we cultivate this kind of response to our failures?
7. What's the difference between trying to 'cover ourselves' with religious activity versus truly surrendering to God's grace?
8. How can we as believers help each other avoid the trap of passivity in our spiritual lives and relationships?

Life Application

This week, identify one area where you've been passive instead of taking godly action. Whether it's in your work, relationships, or spiritual life, take one concrete step to move from passivity to purposeful engagement. If you're struggling with sin or shame, practice running TO God instead of away from Him when you mess up.

Key Takeaways

1. We were created for face-to-face relationship with God, not just religious activity
2. God gave mankind work to enjoy, a will to obey, and relationships to love as expressions of worship
3. Passivity and silence in the face of spiritual battles can be just as destructive as active rebellion
4. The gospel calls us to run TO God when we fail, not away from Him
5. Jesus on the cross reversed the curse of the first tree, offering forgiveness and new life

Ending Prayer

Father, thank You for showing us through Your Word that You created us for relationship with You. Help us to stop trying to cover our own shame and instead run to You when we fail. Give us courage to step out of passivity and into the purposes You have for our lives. Whether in our work, our relationships, or our obedience to You, help us to live as people who understand we are loved and forgiven through Jesus. Strengthen us to be active participants in Your kingdom rather than passive observers. We surrender our lives to You afresh and ask for Your Spirit to guide us in the week ahead. In Jesus' name, Amen.