

Where Fear Got In

Genesis 3:8-13

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

THE ONE THING *Fear was not in the original design. It got in — and the first thing it did was make us hide.*

BEFORE WE START

What was the best hiding spot you ever had as a kid?

Hide-and-seek only works if somebody is looking. And nobody ever won by staying hidden forever — the game only ends well if somebody finds you, or you come out.

VERSE 8 — NOTICE WHAT ACTUALLY CHANGED

THE TEXT Adam had heard that sound a thousand times. Nothing about God changed — something in the man did. And he hides among the trees he tended, admired, and ate from.

TODAY Nature was a window he saw God through, and he turned it into a locked door. We do the same — prayer becomes a chore, church becomes an obligation, and the gift God gave us becomes the place we hide from Him.

- *Has anything that used to feel good ever started to feel like pressure?*
- *What is something God gave you that you have turned into a place to hide?*

VERSE 9 — ANSWER THE QUESTION HE ALREADY KNOWS

THE TEXT Where art thou? Not a demand for information — an invitation. A father seeking his children, not a judge calling a case. That God asked at all was grace.

TODAY God asks where before He asks why. Most of us answer a different question than the one He asked. He is not asking for your defense. He is asking for your address.

- *When somebody asks how you are really doing, what is your automatic answer?*
- *What is the difference between God asking where are you and God asking what did you do?*

VERSE 10 — COME OUT FROM BEHIND THE COVERING

THE TEXT Fig leaves are the first thing fear ever built — and he sewed the covering and still hid. The serpent is called crafty (arum); the couple ends up naked (arom). Same word, one vowel apart.

TODAY They reached for shrewd and landed on exposed. We are all sewing something — the outfit, the caption, the highlight reel. And the covering never stops the hiding. If it worked, you would have come out by now.

- *What are the fig leaves people sew today?*
- *Why do we keep covering even when we know it does not work?*

VERSE 11 — CHECK WHO HAS BEEN NARRATING

- THE TEXT** Who told thee that thou wast naked? The question assumes somebody had been talking — and it was not God. In 2:25 they were naked and unashamed. Same condition, new commentary.
- TODAY** Somebody has been talking to you about you. A parent, an ex, a comment section, or your own voice repeating something said twenty years ago. You have been living off a review God never wrote.
- *Whose voice do you hear when you think about your weaknesses?*
 - *What do you believe about yourself that you have never checked against what God says?*
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VERSE 12 — ANSWER FOR YOURSELF

- THE TEXT** The woman whom thou gavest to be with me. He does not only blame her — he blames God for her. In 2:23 she was his delight. Now she is the mistake.
- TODAY** If they hadn't. If I had been raised different. If the church had been there. Every one of those may be partly true, and not one of them answers the question.
- *What is the most common excuse you hear people give? What is yours?*
 - *Where is the line between explaining what happened to you and using it to avoid what is yours?*
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VERSE 13 — NAME IT AND STILL ANSWER FOR IT

- THE TEXT** The serpent beguiled me. She is right — he did. Neither of them lies. Both accounts are accurate. And neither one answers the question.
- TODAY** Something real was done to you, and naming it is not weakness. But there is a difference between naming what happened and hiding behind it.
- *Why is it easier to name what happened to us than what we did?*
 - *What would it look like to tell the whole truth — what was done to you and what you did?*
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VERSE 21 — WHAT GOD MADE INSTEAD

- THE TEXT** They made wraps out of leaves. God made them garments of skin — the same kind of garment priests would later wear to stand before God.
- TODAY** He did not accept the fig leaves and He did not leave them exposed. He clothed them like people who could come into His presence.

THE FOUR MOVES

1. **Notice what actually changed.**
2. **Come out from behind the covering.**
3. **Check who has been narrating.**
4. **Answer for yourself.**

TAKE FRUIT OR BEAR FRUIT

She was standing in a garden full of trees that bore fruit, and she thought the way to become something was to take fruit. Fear is what convinced us to take. Faith is what frees us to bear.

THIS WEEK Answer God's two questions out loud. Where are you? And who told you that?

My Threat Log

Started September 2 · We look at these together September 16

Every time you catch yourself getting ready for bad news — the email you do not want to open, the call you rehearse, the conversation you script in the shower — write it down. Fill in the last column later, when you know how it turned out. That last column is the whole point.

WHEN FEAR SHOWED UP	WHAT FEAR TOLD ME	WHAT I DID	WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED

If something you write here feels too heavy to carry by yourself, tell somebody you trust — a friend, a family member, or Pastor Young.