

“What Adam Did to You”  
(Romans 5:12)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

We considered this morning,  
That if you believe in Jesus,  
Then you're not judged/condemned –  
Because Jesus obeyed for you  
And He paid the price for your sins on the cross.  
But if you don't believe, you're condemned already –  
Not because you don't believe –  
Though that will increase your condemnation –  
But for your sins and sinfulness.

B. Preview.

This evening,  
Let's remember why we are in that condition when we come into the world:  
Because of one decision one man made many years ago.

Let's look at two things:

1. Adam made you guilty.
2. Adam made you corrupt.

II. Sermon.

- A. First, Adam is the one who made you guilty.

Who is this one man Paul speaks of

Through whom sin entered the world

That brought death to all men –

Who brought death to you? It's Adam.

He's the one Paul is speaking about in our passage.

V. 14, “Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.”

He's the one who first brought death to himself.

God said, “The LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die’” (Gen. 2:16-17).

He ate, and he died.

And he's the one who, when he killed himself,

Killed us as well.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:21-22, “For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.”

And in our passage, “For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men” (Rom. 5:17-18).

You'll notice Paul continually makes a connection between Adam and Jesus –

He contrasts Adam's disobedience with Jesus' obedience.

That's because they were both representatives:

Adam represented all who are in him –

The whole human race –

And Jesus represented all who would be Him –

All who would trust Him by His grace.

That's what Paul means when he says Adam was a type or picture of Jesus.

Again, he writes, “Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come” (v. 14).

Adam was the original head, or representative, of all mankind.

When God placed him in the garden,

He put him there to stand for us.

He was our representative in what we call the Covenant of Works –

The covenant Adam broke.

In Hosea 6, where the Lord rebukes

Both the northern kingdom of Ephraim/Israel,

And the southern kingdom of Judah, for their sins,

He says, “What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? For your loyalty is like a morning cloud and like the dew which goes away early. Therefore I have hewn *them* in pieces by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of My mouth; and the judgments on you are *like* the light that goes forth. For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, and in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. But like Adam they have transgressed the covenant; there they have dealt treacherously against Me” (vv. 4-7).

A covenant is an agreement between God and man –

One in which He requires something,

Promises a blessing if the requirement is met,  
And threatens a curse if it isn't.  
In the Covenant of Works, He required Adam to obey perfectly.  
He promised to give him eternal life if he obeyed,  
But threatened death if he disobeyed.

God placed us all on trial in Adam,  
To see if we would stand or fall.  
If Adam had passed that trial,  
He would have gained life for us –  
We all would have lived forever,  
In God's presence,  
In a state of moral perfection – or perfect love –  
In a paradise on earth –  
Without all the war, hatred, and sin,  
And without any of the complications of the curse,  
Such as dangerous weather, earthquakes, famine and disease –  
And we all eventually would have been brought into the eternal state  
Where these blessings would have continued forever.

That promise was represented by the Tree of Life,  
Which Adam would have eaten from  
As the symbol of gaining this life for us,  
If he had succeeded.

Moses writes, “Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” (Gen. 2:9).

The tree itself couldn’t give life,

But represented the life God promised to give him.

The trial took place at the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Like the Tree of Life, there was also nothing special about this tree,

Except God had told him not to eat from it.

It was a test of pure obedience –

Whether he would listen to God or not.

“The LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die’” (Gen. 2:16-17).

To bring the trial to a head, so that it wouldn’t go on indefinitely,

God allowed Satan to tempt Adam to break the covenant.

How did he get in?

Satan was actually in the Garden from the beginning,

Because that’s where heaven was at this time.

He was on the holy mountain of God

In the middle of the garden,

Standing in God’s presence.

At the end of the creation week –

In which he was also created –

He was good, just like the rest of creation, and the rest of the angels.

“God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day” (Gen. 1:31).

But shortly after the end of that week,

Before Eve had conceived her first child –

Which she quickly would have done,

Because she was perfect and had God’s blessing of fruitfulness (Gen. 1:28) –

Satan fell and was thrown off the mountain into the garden.

In Ezekiel, God speaks to the king of Tyre,

But it’s clear from what He says,

That He’s really speaking to that malignant spirit behind the king,

“Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you *there*. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you. By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, that they may see you” (Ez. 28:12-17).

Lucifer appears originally to have belonged to that special class of angels

That’s responsible for guarding the holiness of God – the Cherubim.

But his beauty and perfection brought about his downfall –

He became prideful and rebelled against God.

And so God cast him off the mountain,

And he came into the garden –

All of which was part of God’s plan.

In his anger, he immediately set out to destroy

Those special creatures God had made in His image –

Adam and Eve, and their children –

Those he was created to serve –

The knowledge of which may likely have been the reason he rebelled –

He set out to ruin mankind –

Or more accurately, to get God to do it.

He first came to the woman and tempted her.

She disobeyed God by eating of the tree,

Then she gave the fruit also to Adam, and he ate and fell (Gen. 3).

Adam failed the test.

On that day, he died –

The seeds of physical death were sown in his body, so that he would eventually die;

The Spirit of God left him and he sensed his moral nakedness;

He came under the sentence of eternal death for having disobeyed God,

And, being our representative, we all died in him.

Paul writes, “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Rom. 5:12).

We died, because when he sinned, we sinned –

His disobedience was credited to our account.

Paul writes, “So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men” (v. 18).

As soon as we are conceived in the womb,

His sin is imputed to us –

God looks at us as though we ate of that tree,

Because through Adam, we did.

God put the whole human race on trial in that one man –

And, so we’re not tempted to criticize God at this point,

Don’t forget that He did so through a perfect man, not an imperfect sinner:

He gave us a perfect representative –

If a perfect man couldn’t resist this temptation,

No one could.

It was God’s plan that he would fail

And that we would all come under His judgment –

He didn’t make Adam sin,

But He knew that despite his being perfect, he would –

Because He also intended to send His Son into the world as our Redeemer,

That He might glorify His grace,

And honor His Son.

He put us all on trial at one time in that man,  
So that the outcome would be decided at once,  
Just as it was with the angels –  
They were all created at the same time,  
And they were all tried at the same time.  
The elect/chosen angels stood (1 Tim. 5:21) – they remained holy –  
Those that weren't elect fell – they became the demons.

Since we don't all exist at the same time as the angels –  
Since we are born at different times –  
And since the Fall, we die –  
We were all put on trial at the same time in Adam,  
We all became guilty in him,  
And we were all condemned by his sin.

B. But Adam's sin did more than make you guilty,

It also made you corrupt:

That's why we saw Jesus characterizing some

In our passage this morning as loving evil/darkness (John 3:19).

Adam's sin corrupted him.

As I said earlier, when he sinned,

He lost the Holy Spirit.

He sensed that loss as the loss of innocence, of holy desire,

Something that felt like the removing of a covering,

The absence of which made him feel naked.

We're not to think that Adam was so blind and ignorant

As not to know that he and his wife were without clothing.

But having sinned against God,

He lost his original righteousness –

He lost the moral holiness and purity that the Spirit gives,

And so felt naked.

That loss also brought a new nature/disposition.

His character changed after the Fall –

Instead of eagerly waiting to walk with God in the garden,

He was afraid and hid from Him, because of his corruption and guilt.

Instead of accepting responsibility for his disobedience,

He shifted the blame to his wife and to God,

“Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ He said, ‘I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.’ And He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ The man said, ‘The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate’” (Gen. 3:9-12).

Does this sound familiar?

We heard Jesus say this morning, “This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed” (John 3:19-20).

After Adam sinned, he wouldn't come to God –

He wouldn't come to the Light.

The whole human race – since the Fall –

Does exactly the same thing –

Which is why apart from God's grace,

All of us would perish.

Jesus says in John 6:44, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day."

Why can't they come?

Because they no longer want to.

Paul writes in Romans 3:10-12, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."

And in 8:6-8, "For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God."

That's why we need the Spirit.

Again Jesus says in John 6:63-65, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. And He was saying, 'For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.'"

Why is it that if you don't believe in Jesus that you've been judged already (John 3:18)?

It's because of what you are in Adam –

Because you are guilty in Adam,

Because you are corrupt in Adam.

It's because, like David, you were conceived and born in sin (Ps. 51:5),

Because you hate God and will not submit to Him.

That's what Adam did for you – that's the bad news.

But let's not forget the good news –

God provided a second Adam,

The One who was pictured by the first –

One who obeyed God,

And who died for sinners.

Paul writes, "So also it is written, 'The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL.' The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit" (1 Cor. 15:45).

And Jesus says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged" (John 3:16-18).

God allowed the Fall,

That He might send His Son,

To reveal His mercy and grace,

So that all who trust in Him,

Would not perish in their justly deserved condemnation,

But would be forgiven and have eternal life.

Again Paul writes, "For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive" (1 Cor. 15:21-22).

Jesus is why the new birth exists –

Why the Spirit can work to open blind eyes to see the kingdom of God in Him,

Why He can change stony hearts so that His people will receive Him.

That's why there are children of light,

Who practice the truth and come to the Light,

By trusting Jesus and turning from their sins.

Are you one of these children this evening?

Do you love Jesus?

Have you come to Him, trusted Him?

Do you love His Word?

Are you reading, applying and living according to that Word?

Are you serving Him faithfully out of that love?

If so, you are no longer in Adam, but in Christ.

You are no longer dead, but alive;

No longer condemned, but forgiven;

No longer on your way to hell, but to heaven.

But if you aren't –

If you're still in Adam –

I again encourage you to come to Jesus.

He is the only way, the only truth, and the One in whom alone is life.

If you want to see heaven and not suffer in hell forever,

You must turn from your sins,

Trust Jesus to save you,

And then follow Him as He leads you in His Word.

If you don't want to come, then pray for His mercy.

Ask Him to send His Spirit to change your heart.

If you don't repent and believe, you will perish.

But if you do, by His grace, you will live.

Amen.

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