



# Words in Wilderness

*Shalom my friends, Shannon*

## Scripture

### Genesis 3: 1-13

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You<sup>[a]</sup> shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise,<sup>[b]</sup> she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool<sup>[c]</sup> of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." 11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

## Where are you?

One of my favorite things to do is walk in the warm sunshine with the people I care most about. It can be with my husband, with a friend, with one of my three kiddos. It's not really about the walk; albeit good exercise but more about "being with" a special someone.

Our God - the God of the Bible - is a God who wants to “be with”, to “dwell with us”. Our souls were made to walk with God; to be with Him.

More frequently than I care to admit, I sometimes don’t want to be with the ones I love. Sometimes I want to hide or be left alone, for whatever reason. I am tired, stressed, have too many things left to complete on my to-do list, or I am distracted by phones and screens.

But over the years I have learned, it’s better to be with my loved ones and for my soul, to be well, it needs to be with God.

One of the most intriguing phrases in Genesis 3 is where Adam and Eve, “heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day”. God is Spirit, which means he doesn’t have a body, legs, or feet.

So I ponder , “What does it sound like when God goes for a walk?”

In Genesis 3:8 we read about what happens when the man and woman, Adam and Eve, originally sin. For the first time, they deliberately hide from God among the trees of the garden. Yet God would not be denied. He still wanted to be with - in fact, the whole narrative of the Bible is about God going after us! Relentlessly pursuing us! Inviting us to be with Him!

As Adam and Eve hid behind the trees God created, He called out to them,  
“Where are you?”(Genesis 3:9).

Physically, God already knew exactly where they were in the garden. What God was really asking was, “Where are you in relation to me?”

All God has ever wanted is to be with you, to be with me.

How can that happen? We were reminded of how our Father made the way possible to “be with us” through Jesus, Emmanuel.

I am praying for you as you begin this journey to be with our Creator. The Creator of the

Universe has called you by name. He has designed you to be with Him and He delights in being with you.

As you start, I challenge you to ponder the question, to linger in His presence, and answer the question for yourself, “Where are you?”

I hope you hear His tone as an invitation to draw near versus a punitive or harsh “where are you?” Where are you in your thoughts, your heart, your doings, your sin, shame or your own darkness?

I am praying you hear His voice compassionately pursuing, “Where are you? I want to be with you”! At times, we are just like Adam or Eve. We want to hide... or turn away... but rather God wants us to run! Run to Him!

Let us draw near even with our doubts and fears, with our sins, mistakes, vulnerabilities, shame, in our nakedness and all! Let us encourage one another as we run this race as a child of God.

The Father sent us His Son, Jesus to be with us, and Jesus either will or has changed our life by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are created in His image. He changes us as we draw near to Him. As we continue to draw near, He continues to transform us and to make us more like Him.

## Reflection Questions

- ☐ *Where are you at this moment? In hiding? Feeling closeness?*
- ☐ *What does it sound like when God goes for a walk?*
- ☐ *Be honest about your desire at this time to draw near. Confess any resistance you may be feeling as His child currently.*

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## *Prayer with Name of God*

Emmanuel, God with us,

Thank you for being a God who desires to be with His children, His sons and daughters. We confess too often, like Adam and Eve in the garden, we doubt you. We hide from you. We question you or misunderstand your ways. We ask by the strength of the Holy Spirit help us to choose to draw near to you. I want to hear your kind and compassionate voice for me as we walk together this day. For my soul to be well, I need to be with you Father. Amen

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*Shalom my friends, Shannon*

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