

PRAYER & FASTING - DAY 5

COME OUT OF HIDING

Genesis 3:8-13 | Proverbs 28:13 | Luke 18:9-14 | James 4:6-10



DEVOTIONAL

There is something striking about the first question God asks after Adam and Eve hide in the garden: **Where are you?**

God was not asking because He lacked information. Adam had sinned, realized he was naked, became afraid, and hid. God entered the garden already knowing what had happened. The question gave Adam an opportunity to step out of hiding and tell the truth about where he was - not simply geographically, but relationally.

At first, Adam does tell the truth: he was afraid, he felt exposed, and he hid. But when God asks what happened, honesty begins turning into explanation and blame. Adam points toward Eve - and even toward God: *The woman you put here with me...* Eve points toward the serpent.

We still do this. We hide. We justify. We minimize. We compare. We explain ourselves until we have almost managed to avoid looking directly at what belongs to us.

Proverbs gives us another way: **confess, renounce, and find mercy.**

Then Jesus shows us what that posture looks like. The Pharisee enters prayer carrying his spiritual resume. He fasts. He gives. He behaves correctly. But instead of examining himself before God, he compares himself to somebody else: *At least I am not like him.*

The tax collector brings no resume and no defense. He simply asks God for mercy. Jesus says that man goes home justified.

We are not uncovering sin so we can sit in shame. We are removing whatever keeps us hiding from God.



COME NEAR

Day 5 Devotional - continued



James gives us the movement: **submit, resist, come near, cleanse, humble yourself**. And before all of those instructions, James reminds us: **He gives us more grace**.

That matters. Grace is not a prize waiting at the end after we perform repentance correctly. God is not asking us to come out of hiding so He can humiliate us. His heart is calling us back into relationship.

Genesis begins with humanity moving away from God's presence. James gives us the opposite movement: **Come near**.

We do not have to arrive with a spiritual resume like the Pharisee. We do not have to compare ourselves with somebody else so our failures look smaller. We do not have to defend, explain, perform, or pretend.

We can simply tell the truth.

God's heart is not waiting on the other side of perfect behavior. He is calling into the places where we have hidden:

WHERE ARE YOU?

The invitation today is to answer Him honestly.

Confession is not telling God something He does not know. **It is choosing to stop hiding what He already sees.**

And when we stop hiding, the movement is not toward condemnation. It is toward mercy, grace, humility, return, and nearness.

TODAY'S REFLECTION

Where am I hiding, defending, minimizing, comparing, or avoiding?

What would it look like for me to come near to God today?

PRAYER PROMPT

God, I do not want to hide from You. Show me where I have been protecting myself from the truth, and help me trust Your heart enough to answer You honestly.

MAKE ROOM FOR GOD'S HEART

