



The Best is yet to Come



Not a fortnight has passed since we saw Adam and Eve spared the death they were destined to receive. They had broken the single solitary law of God. They had rebelled against God. They had abandoned his love. They had scorned his goodness. They had denied the truth he had proclaimed. Adam and Eve loved the lowly lie that they could be MORE LIKE God through disobedience more than they did the fellowship they had with the Father.

We'd like to think we would have been nobler. We like to think we would have been braver and less apt to believe in deceptive words. We paint ourselves as heroes. Do we really think we would have boxed the nose of that crafty Devil and turned our heels to him as we ran away in the sanctuary of the garden and our waiting Creator?

I don't have to look too closely at my own life to see the cracks, the failures, the disobedience. Adam and Eve certainly failed, and with certainty, I know I, too, would have failed. Maybe even faster than they. We let fly the arrow of our works and efforts, and with shot after shot, we miss the mark, we miss the red dot in the center, we miss the bullseye. And that is what it means to be a sinner, "to miss the mark," to be outside of "perfect."

Who among us could claim perfection? Who among us could declare that, with our shameful, sinful stains, we deserve an audience with the Everlasting King? His face is as brilliant as the sun and is too pure to look upon evil. His eyes are like torches of fire, and he looks back and forth over the earth to see if anyone has a heart committed to him. His hands measure off the entire heavens. His voice and appearance cause the earth to melt like wax. He sees all that is done in heaven and on the earth. And we all come forth guilty. We all, like Adam, have sinned. We all, like Adam, deserve not the blessing, but the curse. We all, like Adam, have forsaken the truth of God for the lie of sin. And we all, like Adam, will one day stand before our God.

Every soul who has ever drawn breath will one day face the judgment of a righteous, holy God.

And that would be HORRIBLE NEWS if not for the mercy of God.

In the Garden of Eden, God supplied a covering for the sin of Adam and Eve. He moved past the offenders and killed something in their place so that they could be made right with God. There again, in the third chapter of the story of redemption, we see the foreshadowing of God's redemptive work.

Adam and Eve were the whole of the human race, and God supplied a covering for them. Now the whole of humanity has risen up in rebellion against God. Now there is a judgment coming. Now there is a twilight when all of human history will come to an end, and God will walk among his creations, meting out judgment. But now there is also a sacrifice provided so that we offenders can be made right with God.

In the garden, God shed the first blood as a covering for sin. On the cross, God would supply the final blood needed as a covering for sin. That animal in the garden, that savior on the cross, all part of the same story. I know you are already for more of the story, but we've run out of time once again.

Don't worry.

The best is yet to come.