

6-12-22 Children's Sunday

**The Story of The Garden of Eden..
Every day was like a picnic..**

No need to buy food.. there were trees galore.. and food just grew..

Genesis

After church we are going to have a enjoy a picnic together. When we think about picnicking.. we always think about a beautiful outdoor place. A park or with beautiful scenery or gardens.. This morning I want to talk to you about the most beautiful place that God ever created. God originally made this place for mankind to live. It was where God originally wanted men to live.

It was called the Garden of Eden. When God made man, he planted this garden in a perfect place and placed our original parents in that place.

I. Consider the beauty of The Garden..

Genesis 2:8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Genesis 2:9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

It was the most beautiful place that ever was created.

It had a river flowing through it, and in that place, it never rained, it was never too hot, or too cold.

One of the problems with having a picnic, is that often you have to worry about bugs, mosquitoes, horse flies.. spiders, snakes, bad weather rain.. etc.

In the garden of Eden there was none of that... never rained, yet there was plenty of water.

Imagine a place where you could just pick fruit off the trees to eat.. No need of a pic-a-nick basket in the garden of Eden..

A place that had a perfect temperature..

A place of perfect weather,

This place was more beautiful than Jellystone Park !

II. Consider the danger that lurked outside the garden..

Genesis 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

God commanded Adam to dress and keep the garden.

The word Keep .. the garden means to guard it.

shamar, shaw-mar'; a prim. root; prop. to hedge about (as with thorns), i.e. guard; gen. to protect, attend to, etc.: -beware, be circumspect, take heed (to self), keep (-er, self), mark, look narrowly, observe, preserve, regard, reserve, save (self), sure, (that lay) wait (for), watch (-man).

So it seems that there was a possibility that there was something outside of the garden that could be a threat to mankind...

God told Adam to guard the garden from someone or something..

Whenever, we went on vacation with our family our greatest fear was that one of our children would wander off and get lost.

This happened one time when we were in a large park. There were so many things to see and explore that often our children would wander away from us and could get lost. One time my son let go of my hand, and ran off to see something and we couldn't find him.

There was one danger in the garden, this beautiful perfect place had one dangerous place. That was the place when there was a forbidden tree called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God said, it was safe to eat and explore anything in the garden but Adam and Eve were not allowed to eat from the tree of the Knowledge of good and evil.

III. Consider how Adam & Eve lost there way in the garden

While we were all enjoying our time together as a family in this beautiful park.. My son .. ran off and got away from us and we could not find him. He was lost. We looked everywhere for him. Was he at the Merry-Go-Round.. was he at the ice cream stand. Where could he be..

Do you know that Eve, strayed from Adam one day and wandered off near the forbidden tree in knowledge of good and evil..

God told Adam to guard the garden.. and unknown to him an intruder entered the garden and started talking to Eve.

This was the serpent. The devil himself. The tempter.

Do you know why we were so scared when we lost our son in the park? It was because there are many dangerous people that lurk in these parks. People with bad intentions. I think the greatest fear of any parent is that their children wander off with some stranger in a big amusement park.

Every parent wants to guard and protect their children.. One of the scariest things to ever happen to a parent is to lose their child in an amusement park.

So when Eve wandered off from Adam she got talking to a stranger, the serpent. So you know what the devil convinced Eve to do? He convinced her to disobey God and eat from the forbidden fruit. She ate and then she gave that fruit to Adam and he ate. This was the first sin.

This is where mankind lost his way..
This is where Adam and Eve wandered away from God..

I remember that day when we lost our son in that amusement park.. It was our worst nightmare.. Where could our son be? He was lost. He wandered away. It was a horrible feeling. It was our worst nightmare.

So when Adam and Eve lost their way from God, it was horrible,

When people wonder from God it is horrible..

God warned Adam and Eve, not to wonder and eat from that forbidden tree..
God warned Adam.. be careful there is an enemy out there.. guard the garden ..

You know when we went to this amusement park, we would tell our children stay close and don't wonder, but there are so many things to see and so many people and before you know it, our son wandered off..

IV. Consider how God Rescued Adam & Eve

Genesis 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they [were] naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Genesis 3:8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where [art] thou?

And the Lord God called unto Adam..

When our son.. ran off suddenly he knew he was lost.. he got scared.. he ran here.. he ran there.. he didn't know what to do..

There was a train.. in the park. He ran across the tracks.. it was getting worse and worse..

He was like Adam and Eve.. they ate the forbidden fruit. They wandered from God.. they didn't know what to do. they were in trouble. At first they hid themselves in shame. That was the worse possible thing they could do. They needed to get back to God. Instead they got scared and ran further away from God. They tried to cover their sin.

What do you do in a situation like this? They knew they disobeyed God. They were lost, they were scared.. they started to hide.

What do you think they could do?

Just like my son wandered from us. He was lost, he was scared.. what was he going to do? Imagine, wandering from your parents in a huge amusement park. How would you find your way back. There were all kind of strangers around you..

The Bible says,

Genesis 3:9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, **Where [art] thou?**

God called out with **a loud voice**.. ADAM..

And just then my wife called out with a loud voice.. JOSEPH!!!

My son had crossed the railroad tracks and the train separated us..

JOSEPH.. and my son.. came running towards the voice.

Good thing Adam and Eve finally came out and responded to the voice of God.

Adam and Eve listened to God's voice and he told them what they could do to be saved.

Today to be saved, we need to listen to the voice of God.

We can wander off and get distracted by all the things of this world.

We can find ourselves.. enamored by the amusements of this world.

We can get lost following the crowds of this world.

Before you know it we can get lost from the family of God..

We can lose our way in sin..

But when that happens we need to listen for God's voice. He speaks through the Bible.

My son.. got lost, he got all excited about the park, and the amusements of this world. There are so many exciting things in this world to distract us from church and God. The world will entice us with things that seem exciting and fun. There are roller coasters, there are merry go rounds.. there are ferris wheels.. but before you know it you can wander from your family. You can wonder away and get lost. How will you get home, what will you do?

Listen for the voice. God will call for you ..

Hebrews 3:7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,
Hebrews 3:8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

Adam at first hid from God.. but praise the Lord, God shouted out loud enough that he responded. He came out and moved towards the voice.

So when my son heard his mothers voice.. saying.. Joseph.. Joseph.. he ran towards the voice and was saved.. He was lost and now he was found.

So God's voice cries out to you ..

Isaiah 45:22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I [am] God, and [there is] none else.

To be saved we need to respond to his voice.
How does God speak out to us today?
God speaks to us through his word, THE BIBLE..

The Bible tells us to come to God..
The Bible tells us to believe on the Lord..
The Bible tells us to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.

God told Adam and Eve to believe the gospel message of salvation.

That message was that he would send his Son into the world to pay for our sins. Jesus would come and die on the cross for our sins and be buried and rise again. All who call on him can be saved.

Adam was told to sacrifice a lamb to show his faith in that message. So Adam did that and his children did so for thousands of years, until Jesus came and went to the cross.. Today to show our faith we now get saved, get baptized, and come to church looking back to what he did on the cross.

Oh how happy we were when we got our son back..

Do you know that the angels celebrate in heaven when one of God's children find their way back to him. This is what it means to be saved. Are you saved or are you running from God? Will you trust him!..

Will you listen to his voice, he is calling out your name.. BE SAVED!!!
He is crying out.. come to me.. Be saved..

Today is Children's Sunday and Picnic Sunday. After Church we have some picnic food and then we will play a game of kick ball and Corn Hole..

- I. Consider the beauty of The Garden..**
- II. Consider the danger that lurked in the garden..**
- III. Consider how Adam & Eve lost there way in the garden**
- IV. Consider how God Recscued Adam & Eve
They heard his voice..**

THE GREAT REWARD DAY IN ETERNITY

II Timothy 2:5 And if a man also strive for masteries, [yet] is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

Where do we get the idea of playing games and competeing and winning. This afternoon we had a game, and the team that did the best is going to be rewarded. The Bible likens our life as a race that we are running. Someday we will be rewarded for what we have done for the Lord.

The Apostle Paul says, that to get rewarded we need to play by the rules. Every game has rules.

1. God Has A Great Reward Day...

Romans 14:10for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

There are a lot of disappointments in this life. People get sick.. people die. There are problems, heartaches, etc.

Paul said it this way:

I Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

There is something beyond this life. If not.. then a lot of people will be most miserable. Sometimes this life does not seem fair. Sometimes good people get hurt, and bad people seem to get ahead. Sometimes in this life it does not seem that justice is prevailing. If we do not believe in something greater than this life we will get discouraged and be miserable people.

2. To be rewarded in that day we need to play by God's rules..

II Timothy 2:5 And if a man also strive for masteries, [yet] is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

The rules are his commandments.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this [is] the whole [duty] of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether [it be] good, or whether [it be] evil.

To win this race for God we need to resolve to keep his commandments. Obey God.. Do what he said to do..

3. Someday it will be worth it all to obey God and serve him..

The Bible has great promises given to us for eternal life.

I Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Someday it will be worth it all to have served the Lord.

This is a promise in the Bible.

I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

God says in the Bible that someday God will wipe away all tears..
God has great promises for those who love him and serve him..
We need to believe this by faith....

Will you run this race.. will you seek to win this prize..

This will be the greatest reward you can win.