

February 17, 2021

Read Genesis 3

Key verse: Genesis 3:8

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

The Lies That Divide Us

As a teenager I truly tested my parents' patience. My teen years were times when I tested the truths that I'd been taught to believe and defy many of the rules that my parents established. It was a time when I started to look, feel, and act more "grown up," and from narcissistic perspective that meant freeing myself from the rules that my parents expected me to obey simply to assert my independence.

But breaking those rules came at a price; I no longer had an honest, open relationship with my parents. I chose to hide my transgressions from them, and that took a lot of work, because hiding those transgressions also made it necessary to tell more lies and to consciously avoid my parents out of fear that my transgressions would be discovered.

Having raised a son of my own I have come to realize that there is very little that a child – even a teenager – can hide from parents or guardians. Without always knowing *what* our children are hiding from us, we parents can tell that they are hiding *something*, because they are evasive, angry, and unhappy around us. Indeed it is often a relief to the child for their sins to be discovered. It clears the air, so to speak.

Lent is a time for us to "clear the air" with God. Let's stop kidding ourselves that God cannot see deeply into our hearts and know everything about us – good and bad. Let us begin our Lenten journey with a time of confession before God. Let us "come clean" and share all of our dirt, trusting in God's love and grace, that we may enjoy an honest relationship with him.

Prayer: Dear Lord, we confess that we would want to hide from you all things for which we should be ashamed, but in so doing we hurt you and we deceive no one but ourselves. Open our eyes to your love that we may relish your company rather than fear it. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.