

Taking it Home:

- The Western/American church culture typically deals with the guilt/righteousness element of Genesis 3:7, but typically doesn't dwell on the shame and fear element of Genesis 3; whereas the Asian and Middle East cultures focus on the shame and fear elements of Genesis 3 and not particularly the guilt/righteousness element. What did Pastor Matthew teach us about Jesus' solution for man dealing with the guilt, shame & fear response to sin?
- Why is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ the most important and critical event to occur in the annals of human history? What would have happened if Jesus hadn't risen from the dead? (Cf. Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:12-21; 1 Peter 1:3).
- Romans 5:8 says, "God demonstrates His own love for us in this, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." God loves you so much He allowed His Son, Jesus Christ to die for your sin so you don't have to pay the penalty price for your sin. Jesus conquered sin, Satan and eternal death when He arose from the grave. In order for a person to be "saved" from their sin, God demands confession & repentance of sin (1 John 1:9), recognize Jesus Christ rose from the dead (resurrection), (Roman 10:9-10), that He is our Savior, (1 Tim. 2:3; Titus 3:4-7); He is our Lord (Acts 2:21; 10:36); that you are Jesus' disciple (Matt. 28:19-20; Luke 14:26-27).

The Fall of man in the Garden of Eden created a problem for every man, woman and child from the time of Adam to today. The problem is guilt by breaking God's law; shame by breaking the close relationship with God; and Fear, the breaking of the confidence and trust of God.

Related Resources:

- *"More than a Carpenter,"* Josh McDowell
- *"The Case for Easter,"* Lee Strobel

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew's sermon points, visit pastormatthew.net and click on the "Write This Down" tab.

Easter Sunday
The Great Reversal
Genesis 3; Matthew 28:10

Dr. Matthew R. St. John
Bethel Church
April 24, 2011

The Great Reversal

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelfc.com.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 24, 2011

Genesis 3; Matthew 28:10

Quick Review:

The Garden of Eden was a place where Adam and Eve communed closely with God. With no knowledge of evil before the Fall, even their nakedness was innocent and without guilt, shame or fear. Adam and Eve found their complete gratification in the joy of their union and their service to God. Through the entrance of sin and the knowledge of evil (Fall of man), their situation and standing before God was immediately impacted. The breaking of the Law brought guilt; the breaking of their relationship with God brought shame; the breaking of their trust in God brought fear.

Man's separation from God, due to sin, had to be restored through the death, burial and resurrection of God's Son, Jesus Christ. Man could not restore the broken relationship with God on his own. Jesus Christ bore the pain, suffering, and penalty for sin on the cross so mankind could have reconciliation with God. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important event in the annals of human history and the most critical foundational event that restored man's relationship with God. Those who trust Jesus Christ as Savior have been cleansed; they are free from the stain of sin; they are seen as "innocent" before God; their relationship is restored and their honor and dignity restored, and their peace, confidence and trust in God has been restored.

My Story:

- Stroll back on memory lane for a moment; what was Easter Sunday like in your home when you were a child? Was there a special significance about Easter? What was significant: an Easter basket of candy, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, or nothing was significant?
- What is your understanding of the implication of the resurrection? Please rate the value of the resurrection: (1) not significant at all; (2) it is a huge religious holiday but it is not for significant for most people; (3) very important but not critical to my faith; (4) It is the very core and foundation of the Christian faith. Please discuss your answer.

Growing Deeper:

- **The BASIC PROBLEM for all people:** Man sinned in the Garden of Eden. Sin created a "problem" for each and every man, woman and child on the face of the earth ever since the Fall. What three emotional reactions from man towards God did Pastor Matthew describe that arose from the effects of the FALL? Evaluate the 3 emotional reactions and compare them to your personal life; does this resonate with you? Discuss.
- Why do you suppose there's guilt, shame and fear in the lives of people who do NOT have a "saving" relationship with God? What caused the guilt, shame and the fear when Adam and Eve sinned? Can mankind free himself from guilt, shame and fear apart from a renewed relationship with God? Discuss.
- **READ Genesis 3:1-13.** According to Genesis 3:1-6, what were the conditions that caused Adam and Eve to be deceived and disobey God. Interpret the passages in Genesis and make of list of the conditions that led to disobedience and sin. Use **1 John 2:15-17** as a reference for the three main causes of their disobedience and subsequent sin.
- What did Pastor Matthew say is the **ONLY** solution for eliminating the "sin problem" in ALL people's lives? READ & Interpret **John 11:25; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:4-9; Titus 3:3-7; 1 John 1:7; 9; 5:11-12.**