

Reflection Questions: Genesis 3:1-15

For the message, "What Is Wrong With This World?" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on September 30, 2018

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Genesis 3:1-15

A summary of the message: Genesis 3 invites us into a story about real evil and real rebellion in God's Kingdom. We're invited to see how humanity's rebellion vandalized the shalom (well-being / flourishing) of creation. Yet, while everything is not the way its supposed to be, God has promised to bring about a new creation through His Son, Jesus, who is the descendent of Eve who will crush the head of the evil one.

Key Points:

- RC Sproul, *The Holiness of God*, "The slightest sin is an act of defiance against cosmic authority. It is a revolutionary act, a rebellious act where we are setting ourselves in opposition to the One to whom we owe everything."
- Like Adam and Eve, we fear exposure so we hide—we hide from one another and we hide from God. But God comes to us with the questions, "Where are you?" The question is not a geographical one, but a spiritual one. Where are we in relation to God?
- The Good News of the Gospel of Jesus is that God is indeed forgiving, that his love for us never dies. He offers us real and deep and transformative forgiveness, and it's all wrapped up in the gift of his Son, Jesus. So we don't have to hide, but can mourn over the way we are—our own brokenness, our own rebellion—and trust that God in Christ is indeed forgiving.
- Romans 2:4, "God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance."

Let's get started...

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- What grabs your attention in this text? How are you challenged, convicted, encouraged, or surprised by this text?
- What does this text teach me about God and his character? About human nature, character, & behavior?
- How does this text show you your need for the cleansing, renewing, transforming grace of God?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- One writer by the name of John Eldridge said that we are all “survivors of the wreckage of Eden.” How does Genesis 3 invite us as a community of faith to intensify our mourning over the way things are and to deepen our hope in the renewal of all things?
- How does understanding Genesis 3 call us to be the most humble of people, and yet the most hopeful at the same time? How does it inform the way we relate to those who have yet to embrace the Good News of Jesus?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How does this text serve as Good News for those outside the faith?
- In light of Genesis 3, and indeed, the rest of the story of the Gospel, how would you answer this question: What kind of me does God want for his mission?

Final thoughts:

Clarie Cloning & Paul Smith, *Homesick for Eden*, “All of us are homesick for Eden. We yearn to return to a land we've never known. Deep is the need to go back to the garden, a burning so strong, for a place we belong, a place that we know is home.”

The Good News is there will be a New Heaven and a New Earth that will be even better than Eden, and God “will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more” (Rev. 21:4). And everything that was wrong will be set to rights.

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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