



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Humility: I Don't Need to Hide
Speaker: Jacqueline Snape, Executive Pastor
Scripture: Genesis 3:7-10

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

Genesis 3:7-10 (NIV)

Sermon Outline:

Story of Adam and Eve in Genesis is a jarring, unsettling look at wrong choices and sin. Adam and Eve had everything right before them, anything they could want was provided for them. The most important thing they had was their communion with God, so much was their daily walk with God that they could hear His footsteps. Even in the midst of this closeness, peace and communion with God, they had a tendency toward discontent.

Adam and Eve couldn't admit what they had done, they were too embarrassed. They covered themselves up with fig leaves. Fig leaves were never meant for clothing, they were meant for food – God would have provided them with clothing if he wanted to. The fig leaf hides something else, especially something that is dishonest or embarrassing. Adam and Eve would have used anything to hide their shame. They changed human history for all time by their mistakes, but they were human beings who made mistakes.

The story reminds us of our own brokenness, weakness and sin. None of us are exempt from making mistakes and we will use anything or anyone to hide our shame. The good news is that God created us and knows what we are made of. He is not surprised by our human frailty, knows our weaknesses and mistakes and doesn't change his love for us. We all fall short of perfection and the glory of God.

Jesus took on all of our shame and sin and became separated from the Father for a second, so that we don't have to be separated from Him. When we freely admit our failures and mistakes, we allow God to comfort us and no longer need to hide.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday Executive Pastor Jacqueline Snape continues our series on humility, with a message that explores the connection between the hidden life of humility and "being seen" as the beloved of Christ.

Sermon Questions:

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, was there a yearning for more, were there people who always wanted the newest thing or were you taught to be happy with what you had? Were you taught one thing while those saying it acted differently?
3. At times we use different sorts of social status (fig leaves) to cover things up? What do you use in your life to cover who you are or hide your failure? Job, education, wealth, age, school you went/go to? The people you are connected to? Something else? Ask why do you do this?
4. What are you hiding behind today? What are you afraid to bring to God?
5. Understanding that God knows your weakness and knows your mistakes, but still loves you, how does this truth balance with the shame/fear/guilt you feel about your sin? What sort of freedom can this truth provide?