

“The Origin of Sin – The Cost of Not Listening to God”

Last time we looked at some of the Chinese characters that have connections with this Bible story. The connections are interesting since they show us that the Bible stories are not western ideas. But it is most important to see that these words are seriously important words from God. Are you listening to God?

Sin is *REAL* ... because God is real.

God did give one commandment which He expected people to keep – they were not to eat from one tree in the garden (Genesis 2:17). Some people wonder why God gave people this option, but the reason was that God wanted to give people the choice of freely obeying, loving and serving Him. We cannot blame Adam because Adam did the exact same thing that we would all do – he was a perfect representative for us.

Sin is *SERIOUS* ... because it is against God. See Genesis 3:9-13 and Psalm 51:4.

Wrong things done against society are called *crimes* and some people think that if they have not committed crimes that they are not a *sinner*. But the word *sinner* describes people who do wrong things *against God* – and this is something we have all done. Sins are “crimes” against God, and they are very serious – think of how little Adam had to do to be put out of the garden of Eden?

Another Bible example of the seriousness of sin is the picture of leprosy used in Isaiah 1:5-6; 64:6 to describe the sin of Israel as God’s people. Leprosy is a skin disease resulting from a germ which attacks the nervous system, causing people not to feel in their face, legs and feet, arms and hands, etc. As a result, people have injuries that they do not notice and their bodies can become very disfigured. Isaiah 1:5-6 show a picture of a leprous person (all kinds of wounds, bruises and sores on their body). As terrible and distasteful as this picture is, *God’s message is that our sins look as bad to God as leprosy looks to us.*

Sin is *DEADLY* ... because God says so. See Genesis 2:16-17.

God is the moral king of the universe, and He states that sin brings death: “*the wages of sin is death*” (Romans 6:23). This means our sin has killed our relationship with God (present *spiritual death*), and will eventually ruin our souls in hell forever (future eternal spiritual death).

We will also die physically. Sin is really deadly.

Sin brings ...

- 1) ***SHAME*** – in verse 7 they knew they were naked. They now had knowledge, just like Satan promised in verse 5 – but it was knowledge of evil in their hearts.
- 2) ***GUILT*** – in verse 7 they wanted to try and cover up their nakedness with clothes. Knowledge of their sin and inadequacy before God made them want to make themselves better. They had a sense of guilt. God’s law shows us that “we are all guilty before God” (Romans 3:19).
- 3) ***FEAR*** – in verse 8, 10 they went to hide from God and told Him that they were afraid. They did not want to meet God. Hebrews 2:15 reminds us that we all have “the fear of death.”

Salvation is *FROM GOD* ... since as sinners we cannot do anything to make God accept us.

GOD WAS THE ONE WHO CAME DOWN looking for Adam and Eve and made the clothes for them in Genesis 3:21 – they needed protection from God for the harsh new world. Salvation for human beings must come from God – see Ephesians 2:8 – and CHRIST HAS COME DOWN to earth to give it to us!

Salvation is *SUBSTITUTIONARY* ... since something has to die instead of us for our sins.

Just like the animal died to provide physical clothing/covering/protection for Adam and Eve, the Lord Jesus has died to provide spiritual salvation/protection for human beings. It is by receiving the Lord Jesus that we can get this salvation, and we can become right with God!

One very interesting Chinese word is the word for *righteousness* (義 yi), which is composed of the words *lamb* (羊 yang) and *me* (我 wo). The pictorial meaning is that **when I am under the lamb (Jesus is the Lamb), I am righteous!**