

Faces Never Covered with Shame

(Genesis 3, Psalm 34)

Read Genesis chapter 3- Adam & Eve sinning in the garden. Ask students...

What is the first thing they do after they sin? Cover themselves.

What do they do when they hear God's voice? They hide.

How do you think Adam and Eve feel about what they have done? Shameful.

What/Who do you think they are thinking about? Themselves- they become self-conscious, self-aware. They suddenly notice themselves and their lack.

How do you feel when you do something very wrong?

Do you feel like hiding?

In the very beginning of the Bible, with Adam and Eve, we learn something about man. There is something in man that realizes that when he has done wrong, he wants/needs to be covered. What did they make a covering for themselves out of? Did it work? Did they feel better once they covered themselves in leaves? No. They know they need a covering, and they try to do it themselves, but it is not enough. They still do not want to be in God's presence. How do we try to make ourselves feel better before God? How do we try to cover ourselves? Maybe by doing good things (after we've done something bad that we feel bad about), maybe by going to church or giving money at church or by trying to convince ourselves that we really aren't that bad. Maybe by comparing ourselves with someone "worse" or by blaming someone else for what we did.

But what is the covering that God provides? What did He provide in the garden? "God made coats of skin and clothed them." This is a type and shadow of another covering He would one day provide. How do you get a coat of skin? An animal has to die, blood has to be shed. Jesus is the covering God has given us. Jesus' death on the cross was payment for our sin and a covering for us. Even though God has provided us with His Son as a covering for us, sometimes we still try to cover ourselves. It is usually because we are so focused on ourselves that we do not look away unto Him.

Now I want to read to you a story of someone who is NOT self-conscious. Someone who is shining from spending time in God's presence and he doesn't even know it. He is so consumed with seeing the LORD, that there is no room for looking at himself.

Exodus 34:29-30 And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.

30 And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him.

Moses brought down the 10 Commandments from the mountain a first time, and they were immediately broken. Then Moses goes into the mountain a second time and comes down the with a second set of commandments. This 'second time' is a type and shadow of the second covenant or New Covenant. (The first/old covenant is broken by man immediately. But the new covenant isn't dependent on man. Jesus is the obedient One who becomes the way by which we can enter into His relationship with His father.) When Moses comes down this time, his face is shining and he doesn't know it. When

we spend time in God's presence, knowing Him in the New Covenant, we become aware of Him and forget ourselves. Do you remember a craft we did once, a long time ago, where we put a sticker that said JESUS on a mirror? Your eyes could not focus on His name and your own face at the same time. In the same way, we cannot look at ourselves and look at Him at the same time. Our focus has to be on one. Which one? Looking at ourselves we will be reminded of our lack. Looking away unto Him, we will find peace and rest.

Now I have one last verse, a favorite of mine. It is in Psalm 34. "Those who look to Him are radiant, their faces are never covered with shame." Adam and Eve had shameful faces. They disobeyed God and could not look to Him because they had no real covering- no covering that could take away the sin. We who have been born again in Christ have a covering. We are covered in a Life that is not our own. It frees us from being self-conscious. It allows us to turn and look to Him. "Those who look to Him are radiant."

Craft/ Activity

Decorate circle-shaped sugar cookies as faces- attaching candy eyes with icing and coloring cookies with edible marker. Make 'cards' to go with the cookies- with the verse "Those who look to Him are radiant. Their faces are never covered with shame." Psalm 34:5

