

The Return Back to Abba

Genesis 3

3-16-23

Gen. 3:4-6

But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate.

From our 2020 retreat on the 1st Nail of Crucifixion, reflection 3:

- 1 John 2:16: “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world.”

1. The lust of the flesh (gluttony, lust, sloth)
2. the lust of the eyes (greed)
3. pride of life (pride, envy, anger)

PRIDE: One of the seven capital sins, pride, is undue self-esteem or self-love, which seeks attention and honor and sets oneself in competition with God.

Exposing the evil within us

Our desires, rooted in self, are attached to evil in our hearts (7 Capital sins¹). We try to hide in our hearts sins such as envy and pride. The crucifixion of our desires will expose this darkness. This is the purification by fire. A purification that must break the hardness of our hearts and reveal all the evil in order to create a humble and contrite heart.

All that is hidden in our hearts must be exposed and come into the Light of God.

- “Nothing is covered that will not be revealed or hidden that will not be known.” Mt 10:26
- “(The Lord) will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart.” 1 Cor. 4:5
- “And before him no creature is hidden, but all are open and laid bare to the eyes of him with whom we have to do.” Hebrews 4:13

11/28/22

Fear and Hiding

My little one, fear that leads to hiding is part of the fallen human condition because of original sin. The human soul was created by God to live in Love and to experience the consuming peace and joy of being loved by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. When Adam and Eve sinned by choosing to doubt God's love, they separated themselves from God, thus, they hid from the God that created them and loved them. Original sin brought the fear of God and hiding into humanity.

¹ Catechism #1866

*I, the Second Person of the Trinity, the Son, came into the world to restore humanity in the Father's love through My perfect sacrifice of love. You must understand your fallen condition and tendency to fear being rejected, abandoned, not loved, and embraced, and therefore, to hide to avoid being hurt. Give Me your fears. Come out of hiding and face Me. Receive from Me the grace of the divine embrace—**being known, cherished, and loved in your misery by Abba, who knows all and sees all**. Accept the suffering on earth of being rejected, mocked, misunderstood, calumniated, ridiculed, ignored, and unloved with Me and for Me. Living life on earth to its fullness is knowing and living in God's love and accepting the continuous suffering of living amid human beings mostly incapable of loving unconditionally.*

Encountering Love moves you to live in God's embrace while receiving the brokenness of others and suffering for them as one with Me because of Love. This is the fullness of life here on earth.

Gen. 3:8-10

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of thee in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."

When God Father asks, "Where are you?", do we immediately think of an angry father? Do we think of an angry mother holding a "chancleta," a flip-flop, yelling, "Where have you been?"?

Adam answers God by telling Him that he was afraid because he was naked, and so he hid. He knows he has sinned in his disobedience to his Father. His sin has an immediate consequence—the truth of the Father becomes distorted in the hearts of Adam and Eve—and for the first time, they feel fear. Sin has distorted all of creation.

But the truth is that Abba's question, "Where are you?", was not spoken in anger but in love. "Where are you, My children? Why are you hiding from your Father?" They are spoken in grief, in the pure sorrows of love that Abba experiences, knowing that His children now have separated themselves from Him.

Gen. 3:11-13

11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I ate."

It is significant that the Father, knowing perfectly well what happened, approached both Adam and Eve with questions. He asked Adam, "Who told you that you were naked?" and "Have you

eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” Then the Father asked Eve, “What is this that you have done?”

Neither Adam nor Eve answered the question; instead, they BLAME and JUSTIFY themselves. Adam said, “The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” He blames his sin on Eve and therefore tries to justify himself. Eve justifies herself by blaming the serpent, “The serpent beguiled me, and I ate.” Neither one of them take responsibility for their sin. They don’t own up to their sin.

In the *Simple Path*, God brings us back to asking ourselves questions. This process becomes the opposite of what Adam and Eve did. When we ask God the questions, we are then taking responsibility for our sins and wounds. We are acknowledging that we are wounded, that we are full of pride, and that we want God to reveal the truth of our darkness to us. We approach God and do not hide from Him.

As we become aware of our disordered tendencies and reactions, the key question we must ask ourselves is, “Why?” “Why did I react that way?” “Why did I get angry?” “Why did I avoid that authoritarian person?” “Why did I feel inadequate and insecure?” “Why did I run away?” “Why did I want to hide?” “Why couldn’t I say ‘NO’?”

By asking the question “why?” we are humbly acknowledging our disorder and giving permission to the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts and unlock the door of our hidden room where our wounds hide. (*Simple Path*, page 107)

COMMUNION is what was lost in the Garden after Adam and Eve’s original sin (Gen.3:23). The moment they hid from God’s goodness and covered their sin with the leaves of justification and blaming, they separated themselves from Abba’s love. **They did not REPENT** but remained in their obstinacy. Pride entered humanity, and this darkness became the barrier between God and us.

Imagine if Adam and Eve had run to ABBA naked in their sin and prostrated themselves before their good Father and cried out, “Father, we have sinned against you in our disobedience. We are so sorry. Please have mercy on our misery.”

Repentance is what begins to destroy the barrier between God and us and opens wide the gate of Mercy.

“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love... (Joel 2:12-13)

7. At the Cross, We Begin to See —Diary of a MOC. p.30

*Mary immediately turns your gaze to My crucified Love, but many cannot see Me because their eyes are covered by the darkness of sin. Mary, your advocate and Spouse of the Holy Spirit, immediately calls upon My Spirit to come to the aid of your soul. The planks of pride, self-love, vanity, and sins of all kinds are revealed to you by the Holy Spirit. It is here at My feet, through the **gift of repentance, that you begin to see.** Grace builds upon grace, but also, each **grace removes a veil** that keeps the eyes of your soul from seeing the glory of God before you and the darkness that keeps you from hearing the whisper of God within you. (12/12/11)*

The return back to our Father through the gift of Redemption is the opposite of what Adam and Eve did. Therefore, that is why God brings us, at the beginning of the *Simple Path*, to the feet of Jesus crucified to open our eyes to our sins through the gift of self-knowledge to bring us to REPENTANCE. **Without repentance, there is no return to the Father. Without repentance, we remain hiding, in fear, and in the darkness of being separated from Abba's love.**

2/18/18

Repentance is the Sword of the Spirit

Repentance is the gift of God that serves to pry open the hardened human heart so that My seeds of conversion can grow. Repentance is the Sword of the Spirit that opens the darkness within the human heart to be filled with God's Light of truth, and the truth sets you free.

To live in repentance is to live clothed in the knowledge of who you are, which is misery, and the knowledge of who I Am, which is Love and Mercy.

To live in repentance is to live in the freedom of living in the embrace of Abba, Our Father.

Tell My souls to seek true repentance at the foot of My Cross, and the power of My Love Crucified will set them free to live in My peace and the joy of My promise.

Adam and Eve covered their sin with leaves. We, too, cover our many sins with masks and the cloak of falsehood. The *Simple Path to Union with God* becomes God's path of UNVEILING us, His bride, until we are NAKED again in our complete misery. We must choose not to blame and justify ourselves but to come before ABBA in Christ crucified, exposed completely in our total misery, and cry out, "My God have mercy, for I am a sinner." Then communion is restored. As the prodigal son, we enter the embrace of our Father. We begin to live heaven on earth within our hearts in the unity of the Trinity!

85. What Is True Unity? —Diary of a MOC. p.240

*What is true unity? First and foremost, unity is union with the God-Man. I, the Second Person of the Trinity, became man so that you could come to know personally your good God. I became man to set you free from the bondage of your sins so that you can see with the eyes of My angels the glory of God before you. But **I was not incarnated in the womb of Mary only to save you and set you free but to become ONE with you.***

The Father and I are ONE; the Father in Me and I in Him with the Holy Spirit (cf. Jn 17). The union of the Trinity is pure love. I came upon the earth to draw you into union with the Most Holy Trinity through the Cross—no longer two but ONE.² It is in this union that love exists.

Only from this union of love with your Triune God can unity exist in My Body, the Church. It is through My life in the Eucharist that I become One with you, but it is only through your participation in My Eucharistic life that you become One in Me. This participation can take place only by entering the Cross of new life, My crucified love. (11/23/11)

² Cf. Eph 2:15-16.