

“Where Are You?”

- I. Realize that Satan stirs up destructive enmity between God and us.
- II. Rejoice that God puts saving enmity between Satan and us.

Dear Christian friends,

Have you ever gotten lost? A **few years ago** on a school field trip we were hiking in a state park. SOMEWHERE along the way we took a wrong turn and ENDED UP on the **wrong side** of the lake. We weren't QUITE LOST but we also weren't where we SHOULD have been.

**“Where are you?”** God calls here. That's not God asking FOR DIRECTIONS because He was lost. That was a call for Adam and Eve to SEE WHERE they were. As we look at these verses we use that question to GUIDE us. **“Where are you?”** God asks each one of us. 1)REALIZE that Satan stirs up destructive enmity between God and us. 2)REJOICE that God puts saving enmity between Satan and us.

**I. Satan stirs up destructive enmity between God and us.**

Where are we? We are back in the beginning of the Bible. Genesis 1 reports how **God created** our world in six normal days. Genesis 2 gives us a MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT of **day six** – of God making Adam out of the dust of the ground and Eve from Adam's rib. Genesis 3 records THE FALL into sin. **Now just because** Genesis 3 FOLLOWS Genesis 2 we shouldn't think that the first sin happened the **“next day.”** Genesis 3 could be days – months – YEARS after **“God rested on the seventh day.”** We just don't know how much time passed before Adam and Eve sinned.

Where are we? We are in the Garden of Eden. It's the **“cool of the day”** – late afternoon or **early evening** when a breeze starts blowing. EVIDENTLY as He had done before God **“was walking in the garden”** – coming to VISIT Adam and Eve. But this time things WERE DIFFERENT! Adam and Eve were nowhere to be found! **“The LORD God called to the man, ‘Where are you?’”** God knew EXACTLY WHERE Adam was. God also knew EXACTLY WHAT Adam had done. **“Where are you?”** was a call for Adam to UNDERSTAND EXACTLY what had happened – and what would happen!

Adam heard God calling and his answer was LESS THAN HONEST. Before this Adam had never been afraid of God or embarrassed about being naked. But NOW Adam pretends modesty and tells God, **“I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”** What had REALLY HAPPENED? Satan had stirred up DESTRUCTIVE **enmity** between God and Adam and Eve.

**Enmity means** you see someone as YOUR ENEMY. Satan had tricked Eve into seeing God as HER ENEMY. Satan convinced Eve that he was there AS HER FRIEND to show her a GOOD TIME – **while God** was out to make her LIFE MISERABLE with all His **rotten rules**. Satan still uses that trick to STIR UP destructive enmity between God and people.

Satan made it look SO INNOCENT and HARMLESS. He made it look like something GOOD for them. Sin that is. There was no mistaking what God EXPECTED from them. God had ordered them to leave **“the tree of the knowledge of good and evil”** alone. God had warned them, **“For when you eat of it you will surely die.”** The devil convinced them to IGNORE God.

**“Where are you?”** God called. Adam and Eve were hiding **because** they had a GUILTY CONSCIENCE. Now they realized they HAD NO BUSINESS **disobeying** God. They had sinned. They deserved to die.

Sin is NOT ONLY STUPID it makes people THINK STUPID. Where do you hide from God? When God confronted them they tried making excuses and PASSING THE BUCK. Adam actually blamed God! **“The woman YOU put here with me...”** It was all God’s fault that Adam had sinned. But it didn’t work.

**“Where are you?”** was a call for Adam to COME CLEAN and confess his sin. But Satan had stirred up SUCH ENMITY in Adam’s heart that he wouldn’t do it. God had to force Adam and Eve to FACE UP to their **sin** and its **consequences**.

**“Where are you?”** Has Satan FOOLED you so that **sometimes** you see God not as your LOVING FATHER but your WORST ENEMY? When we see God’s Word as BORING and God’s commandments as RIDICULOUS – that’s the devil working to STIR UP **destructive enmity** between God and us. When we see being a Christian and trying to live a **God-pleasing** life as a BUMMER and BURDENSOME – that’s the devil getting us to **see God** as our ENEMY.

Adam and Eve hid from God because they didn’t know WHAT TO DO with their sin. The law was working on their **conscience**. They were wrong. They were guilty. THEY KNEW it – and they knew there were CONSEQUENCES to their sin. AVOIDING God **seemed** to be the best thing to do. It’s just like people who stop coming to church **because** THEY KNOW God doesn’t approve of how their living their lives. But God had a DIFFERENT SOLUTION to their sin. Rejoice that...

## II. God puts saving enmity between Satan and us.

God made the FIRST MOVE. The last Person Adam and Eve **wanted to see** was God. But IN PURE GRACE God still wanted to be a part of their lives. God sought them out.

Had Satan followed Adam and Eve as they went hiding among the trees? He was right there with Adam and Eve. When Satan had rebelled God had shown him NO MERCY at all. Peter tells us, **“God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell.”** Was Satan now waiting to see the SAME THING HAPPENED to Adam and Eve? THEIR SIN and guilt was no different from Satan’s. They all deserved to be **damned** to hell forever.

God first deals with the snake. **“Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.”** The snake – USED by Satan to attack man – now became an OBJECT LESSON for man. Every snake SLITHERING in the grass is to constantly remind us of the FIRST SIN and its **dreadful consequences**. Every snake is to remind us to constantly BE ON OUR GUARD against the **old evil foe**.

**Every snake** – sliding along on its belly on the ground – is to remind us of the devil’s ULTIMATE – CRUSHING DEFEAT. Now we don’t know how snakes **moved** before this and it’s a waste of time to **guess** about it. To **“eat dust”** is the picture of being CRUSHED in defeat – GROUND into the dirt. Satan is the guaranteed BIG LOSER and all who follow him are LOSERS as well. Every slithering snake is to **remind** us of that!

Next God speaks directly to Satan. It’s a promised filled with HOPE and MYSTERY and picturing life until the Last Day. **“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel.”**

God breaks up Eve's new FRIENDSHIP with the devil and puts SAVING ENMITY between them. The devil is not our BEST FRIEND but our **worst enemy!** The only thing the **devil wants** for us is to END UP in hell with him. "**Enmity**" – your ENEMY! – God says.

God puts SAVING ENMITY "**between your offspring and hers.**" Until the Last Day there will be "**enmity**" and vicious fighting between **God's people** and the devil's followers. The unbelieving world CAN'T STAND the Christian who holds fast to his Savior and who STANDS UP for God's Word. The Bible is filled with examples of **God's people** ATTACKED because of their Christian faith and values. Just think of Abel – Elijah – Jeremiah – Paul, etc.

That enmity continues today. BOLDLY PROCLAIM that **Biblical Christianity** is the only true religion – that the trine God is the only **real** God – that only Christians are going to heaven – and WATCH THE REACTION! STAND UP for God's morality – that homosexuality and **adultery** and **sex outside** of marriage are JUST PLAIN SIN – tell someone they need to **repent** of their sin or they're going to hell – and WATCH WHAT HAPPENS! Jesus bluntly tells us, "**If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first.**"

As Christians we are to "**let our lights shine**" – but in the face of **such enmity** it's tempting to hide our faith – to keep quiet and NOT MAKE WAVES. It's easier to GIVE IN to the **world's ways** than to stand up against them. We dare not make peace where GOD PUTS "**enmity.**"

That enmity reaches its climax in the BATTLE BETWEEN Jesus and Satan. We have here the **first promise** of Jesus. Over the centuries God FILLED IN **more details** but already here God promises us One who would "**crush the serpent's head.**" John explained Jesus mission – "**the reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's works.**"

Satan went after Jesus WITH A VENGEANCE – from little on. **Recall** the slaughter of the **innocent babies** of Bethlehem and the flight into Egypt. **Recall** Jesus' temptations – NOT JUST during those forty days in the wilderness but throughout His life. **Look** at how Satan turned people AGAINST Jesus – getting them to walk away from their only hope of heaven. **Look** at today's gospel reading (Mark 3:20-35) and the opposition Jesus ran into. BEHIND IT ALL was the devil. Then came Holy Week as Satan lashed out with a VICIOUS ASSAULT on Jesus from all directions – EVEN FROM AMONG His own followers. The sinless Son of God – the "**beloved**" Son of God – was rejected – condemned - crucified – DEAD. "**You will strike His heel.**"

But through all that Jesus "**crushed the serpent's head.**" Though tempted Jesus NEVER GAVE IN. Jesus perfectly LOVED and **perfectly** OBEYED His heavenly Father – and He gives us all the credit for it. Jesus' death was NOT SATAN'S TRIUMPH over Jesus but the full payment for the sins of the world. **On the cross** Jesus endured the punishment and hell we had coming because of our sins. Take another look at **Easter morning** and SEE WHO WON! Jesus lives!

"**Where are you?**" God asks us today. Are you siding with Satan – or are you STANDING BESIDE Jesus? Only in Jesus do we have God's forgiveness of all our sins. Only Jesus' blood "**cleanses us from all sin.**" Only through Jesus are we "**reconciled**" with our holy Creator. Only with Jesus do we have eternal life in heaven the moment we die.

"**Where are you?**" Are you "**denying yourself – taking up your cross – FOLLOWING JESUS**" – or are you walking that "**broad road**" – that CROWDED road – that leads to hell? "**Where are you?**" is a call to FLEE from Satan – to CLING by faith to Jesus. "**Where are you?**" is a call to FOLLOW GOD – to be guided by God's Word – so that we don't get lost in life – or in eternity. Amen.