

**March 29, 2021**

**Text: Genesis 3:17-19**

To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

**Devotion: Jennifer McGraw**

I know this story like I know the back of my hand - Adam and Eve, original sin, banished from the garden, the wages of sin are death, etc. And to be honest when I chose to do this devotional my first thought was "Yikes! This is not very uplifting". However, God showed me a different way that I would love to share with you.

First, there is consequence for actions. We are always free to choose – God made us that way- however our choices will always have consequences – positive and negative. Adam learned this the hard way. His consequence was negatively huge. He was literally living life like no other and God took all of that away from him. I can only imagine the feeling of utter failure that Adam had and the thoughts of begging, pleading – "I promise I won't do it again, Lord – just let me stay". God – being God – knew all these thoughts and already knew that His Son would come and take away the sting of sin and ultimately death.

Second, God is in control. He created us in His image. "From dust you are" God took dirt, breathed on it and made the creature He loves the most. How amazing is that!! "To dust you will return" – death. We cannot escape it. God controls that too.

Third, what's in between? Life. Life that we get to choose. We can choose holding God's hand so we can be guided or we can choose to let go and do things our own way. Either way, we sin. We are human and therefore broken. But that's not the end of the story – Praise Jesus and Thank you, God!!

God gave us His only Son, so we can live eternally. He gave us a way back to Him and what an undeserving, incredible gift – not one we can ever earn by apologies, by service, by money, by anything. He just said – "Here, I love you and I want you to have this." And he doesn't just say it once; He says it over and over and over and over. There is never a time that God will take it away from us.

So if you are feeling like Adam – a complete and utter failure. Please know God hasn't lost sight of you – He is waiting for you to come back. He's waiting for you to say His name, to pour out your heart to Him. He is out searching for you, saying your name, hoping and pleading that you will return because He made you out of His breath and His deepest desire is to have you with Him. He wants you to want Him.

I pray and hope that this Lenten season we remember what Jesus went through for us because His Father loved us so that we could be with Him forever and ever and ever and ever and ever! AMEN!!!