

In Step with Jesus 198

May 10, 2026

Key Text: “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)

Introduction

Last week we learnt that the immediate consequence of disobedience to God’s law was that it altered humanity’s relationship with God, with nature and with one another. Adam and Eve were no longer comfortable with God’s presence when He visited them in the garden. They became ashamed, ran away, and hid themselves. Their relationship with nature also changed in ways that we may not fully comprehend until God restores everything to His original purpose. Most significantly, their relationship with each other changed. In fact, the first thing that changed after they ate the fruit was that they became ashamed of their nakedness and had a need to hide from each other, so they made garments of fig leaves to cover their nakedness. Adam was a willing participant in Eve’s disobedience, but when God questioned Adam, he blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent. Each of them responded as though they had no choice, and therefore, no accountability in the matter. It was bad enough that they had sinned but to take no accountability would have hurt God the more and further separate them from God. Unfortunately, separation from God amounts to separation from life. Eternal death and suffering are the just reward of sin, but God intervened with mercy and grace.

Today we will reflect more on the consequences of sin and God’s intervention for the human race. We need to be able to understand sin and its consequences so that we will not misunderstand or underestimate the free gift of salvation we have in Jesus Christ. Let us read Genesis 3: 14-24 and see what God will show us.

Genesis 3: 14-24

14 The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

16 To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” 17 And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” 20 The man called his wife's

name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. 21 And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

22 Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat and live forever—” 23 therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. 24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

REFLECTIONS

The key message from our reading today is that God is a God of justice and mercy. The sin of the serpent, Adam, and Eve, did not go unpunished but in the judgement of God, we can also see His mercy. In God’s judgement on the serpent, there is a deeper meaning which we cannot ignore. We highlighted in our previous readings, that the serpent was working under the influence of Satan, therefore it represented Satan. So, the curse pronounced on Satan on that day was an indirect curse on Satan. Cursed by God, Satan is humiliated to the lowest of the low but most importantly, God had put enmity between him and the woman, and between him and the seed of the woman. What that means is that Satan will have limited influence and control over humanity. We will always see Him as an enemy, regardless of his deceptions. And the best news of all is that the seed of the woman, which is Jesus Christ, will bruise his head. God’s curse on Satan was a promise that has now become history. On the cross of Calvary, Jesus bruised Satan’s head. He defeated Him. However, for a limited time, Satan still has power to deceive those who have not fully yielded their lives to Jesus Christ.

Eve also got her share of the just punishment of God. From that time forward, childbearing would become a painful experience and her relationship with her husband would change. Rather than a harmonious, mutually submissive relationship, and shared dominion, her desire was to be for her husband, and her husband was to rule over her. Before sin, the man and the woman had shared dominion over all creation but after sin, Eve became subject to Adam. Notice that it was after sin that Adam named Eve, just the way he named other creatures. Before sin, Eve was simply the woman, the bone of Adam’s bones and the flesh of his flesh. After Sin, Eve’s identity changed. Her identity, which was, originally, defined by her relationship with the man, would now be defined by her relationship with her seed. But in that painful change of identity lies Eve’s hope of restoration. The hope of the woman lies in her seed, Jesus Christ, who would become the second Adam (1 Corinthians 15:42-49).

Time and space will fail us to reflect on God’s judgement and mercy upon Adam and by extension the entire human race. However, one thought we should hold dear until we meet again next week is that God is love, His judgement is consistent, and He does not show partiality. Even if we have sinned and deserving of His judgement, His mercy sits over His judgement, and His mercy endures forever.