

FEBRUARY Devotional:

How Sweet the Sound of Redemption

Have you ever thought that you were alone and then decided to do something, shall we say, sinful, knowing that you would be able to get away with it for certain? I have. When I was a little boy, I figured out where our parents hid the Christmas gifts (up in their bedroom closet). When they were gone doing more shopping or running errands, I would go into their room, open their closet doors, and hunt for the presents. I would take a lot of time doing this, knowing full well that they would be gone for a long time. Unfortunately, I lost track of the time during one of these “adventures”. The first thing I HEARD was the SOUND of my father walking through the front door and heading straight for the bedroom. This is plenty of my story for all of you to get the idea...

The text for this month’s devotional is **Genesis 3:8**.

“Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.”

Please consider a couple of questions for this one verse.

† What was the sound of the Lord God walking?

† What were the man and his wife thinking when they hid from HIM in the trees?

Please remember that prior to Genesis 3, the man and his wife were PERFECT in every way: their looks, their actions, their thoughts, their desires. They literally had it all. All of the “sounds” to this point in their lives were sweet, sweet melodies. All of their conversations with the Lord Almighty were outstanding and awesome in every way imaginable. Unfortunately, the voice that they listened to at the beginning of this chapter was not the voice of God, but the voice of the serpent. Things progressed downhill at an alarming rate. They made a choice in these first seven verses of Genesis 3 that would not only change their lives forever, but ours as well...

So where is the redemption part? I guess it ultimately begins in verse 8, if you really think about it. **God is there!** He is there in the earlier joys of perfection. He is here now in their despair. He listens to their finger-pointing as He asks what they have done. He provides the consequence for actions rendered against His Holy will, first to the serpent, then later to the man and his wife. He also provides the REDEMPTION in one of the sweetest verses in all of Scripture, **Genesis 3:15**:

***And 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.***

Finally, as a loving Father, He fashions for them garments made of skin for the man and his wife (vs. 21). That is our God as Creator and Preserver! Yes, there were more consequences to follow for their actions against Him; but, through that **Sweet Sound of Redemption**, that Name above all names, that man and woman of Genesis 3, like you and I, are and will be redeemed to stand before the throne. Now that is REAL Love!

—Karl Fink