

Making HIStory My Story

ACT 2: DAMAGED BUT NOT DUMPED

Genesis 3-4

Trust is the foundation of every relationship. Trust gets expressed in different ways in different relationships. It gets built primarily by making promises and keeping them. Even when we fail to keep our promises, trust can be repaired and strengthened through openness and honesty.

What do we do, though, when the other person withholds trust? When despite our best efforts they choose to place their trust elsewhere?

When that happens the first thing we need to do is (1) respect the other person's freedom to withhold their trust. Something else we need to do is (2) withhold the benefits of relationship. We may also need to (3) impose consequences for the broken trust; a price may need to be paid.

That's where our human instincts end; but Jesus Christ calls us to take another step and (4) extend an invitation to reconciliation. Of course, that invitation will include (5) actions required to make reconciliation possible.

As we continue looking at the BIG story of the Bible, we see that these are the very things God did when our first parents, Adam and Eve, broke trust with him.

While Eve and then Adam were being tempted (Gen. 3:1-7), God was nowhere to be found. Surely God knew what was going on. Yet he did not intervene. Why not? Because he respected their freedom to withhold their trust; and therefore he refused to meddle in their decision.

If Adam and Eve had sought God in the moment of their temptation, they would have found him; but they failed to look, they trusted their own instincts, and thereby they set the course of humankind ever since, which brings us to Act 2 of HIStory.

God's Act of Eviction: We are _____

Gen. 3:22-24, Col. 1:21-22

- Because of their act of distrust, God withdrew the benefits of his presence by barring them from the Garden.
- Not only did their rebellion put Adam and Eve at odds with God, it put them at odds with each other, with creation and with themselves.

God's Gift of Homesickness: We are all _____

Gen. 3:16-19 (also Phil. 3:20; 1 Pet. 2:11)

- To serve as a constant reminder that things are not as they were meant to be, God imposed pain and frustration, toil and futility on to human existence.

"God whispers to us in our pleasure, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world"

"If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world." C.S. Lewis

God's Promise of Redemption: We are not _____

Gen. 3:14-15

- Genesis 3:15 contains the Bible's first explicit prophecy of Jesus Christ and promise of redemption.

God's Call to Master Sin: We have a _____

Gen. 4:1-7

- God's promise of redemption through Christ is unconditional; but if we want to cash in on that promise we have a role to play. We have to give the right and power to decide between right and wrong back to God and trust his judgement.
- Trusting God's judgement doesn't start when we stand in front of the congregation and declare, "I have decided to follow Jesus." It starts in the heat of the moment when we say, "Lord, doing your will feels like it's going to kill me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done."