

Remnant Life Church
June 29, 2014

“A Change of Clothes”
Genesis 3:1-21

- Living the life of a Christian is about change
 - The highest call we have is to live our lives in the way that Jesus demonstrated while He was here on earth
 - *Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. Matt 5:48*
 - This is not about obtaining but rather pursuing perfection
 - In other words, the things of Christ
 - The struggle we have is a perfect example given to an imperfect vessel
 - This means that the journey of change is a life-long endeavor
 - We never arrive
 - We never make it
 - We never know all that we should know or always live the way we should in every circumstance
 - Yet we should never be discouraged as the process of the change, of experiencing God’s love and mercy in our lives is a source of great joy and fulfillment
- Who and what we are on the inside will always, at some point, be seen on the outside
- These are the clothes we wear that, much like uniforms do, identify who and what we are - so too are the clothes of our spirit, our mind and our heart
- But the “clothes” we wear today can often keep us bound in a place that we have been forgiven or set free from
- Do you need to change your clothes?
- The Bible shows us people who underwent change and many times the change on the inside was represented by the clothes they wore on the outside
- Adam and Eve (**Gen. 3**)
 - In this first encounter of Adam and Eve with God as a fallen creation we learn:
 - We all need covering for our sin – salvation is essential for every person and the only way
 - Our attempt to cover our own sin is always inadequate
 - Adam and Eve made coverings for themselves out of fig leaves (v7)
 - Our first clothes were the clothes of sin
 - Many people try and cover their sinfulness through good works or attending church – nothing we do can cover our sin
 - Only God can provide the proper covering
 - That covering is His willingness to offer us forgiveness
 - Believe and accept Him into our lives

- But that covering and ultimate forgiveness required the sacrifice of the innocent
 - The Bible does not specify but is it possible that Adam and Eve witnessed the slaughter of the first sacrificial animals?
 - This would have been their first exposure to death
 - Necessary for them to understand the gravity of sin and the depth of the penalty (death)
 - The blood of the animals covered but did not remove the sin
 - Only the shed blood of Jesus would do this
 - He was Adam's hope then and is still our hope today
 - Adam and Eve receive the curse (penalty) for their sin
 - Despite the curse Adam names her Eve, the mother of all the living (v20) not Death, the mother of all the dying
- Moses (**Exodus 28**)
 - God tells Moses to appoint his brother Aaron high priest (v1)
 - He then gave very specific instructions on how Aaron was to dress (turban; ephod; robe; breastpiece; tunic; belt) in order to "...give him dignity and honor." (v2)
 - The clothes of Aaron set him apart and brought to him a respect that his call required
- Joseph (**Genesis 37**)
 - Was given the coat by his father as a sign of love and honor (v3)
 - His brothers destroyed the coat in anger and jealousy (v31)
 - When Joseph was sold into slavery, taken to Potiphar's house, put in jail, taken to Pharaoh he was given new clothes
 - Unique because the change of clothes never altered who Joseph was on the inside
- Prodigal Son (**Luke 15**)
 - Riches to rage to riches
 - His father put new clothes on him to welcome him home and reinstate him to his place as heir (v22)
- Lazarus (**John 11**)
 - Jesus called him out of the tomb and immediately told the people to take his grave clothes off (v44)
 - From the clothes of the dead to the clothes of the living
- Jesus appeared in His true clothes at the Mount of Transfiguration (**Mark 9**)
 - Radiant white (v3)
 - His magnificence, His splendor, His glory all revealed in His clothes
- When we come to Jesus we are given new clothes

- *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: (2 Cor 5:17-18)*
- Our nature is changed from sinful to righteous
- Our heart is turned from corrupt to loving
- Our minds are released from bondage into freedom

- But we must guard and hold to our new nature
 - Satan will come and try to give us back to our old wardrobe
 - Protect our minds
 - This requires our participation
 - Change what we do, where we go, even who we associate with
 - We cannot combine or keep the old with the new
 - Many times we try and blend the elements of the past with our new person
 - **Matt 9:16** – new patch on old material

- Do you need to have your clothes changed today?
 - *“The Unaware Millionaire”*
 - It begins with a prayer asking God to forgive you of your sins
 - Offer your old clothes back to Him

 - **Live your life with your new wardrobe – you are not the same person you once were!**