



A God Exposed

Wednesday, March 27 at 11 & 7

Fourth Wednesday of Lent – 2019

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today we focus on Jesus being *a God exposed!* As we found it highly unusual that Jesus was a God who hungered, who prayed, and who was beaten, so today it is also highly unusual that Jesus was a God exposed! *He endured it all for us and our salvation!!!* Today we will move **from** Adam and Eve being exposed **to** the ultimate clothing of righteousness, which is the very clothing God puts upon all people who, *by His grace*, trust in Jesus!

1. **Adam and Eve:** The first two people, *through whom God brought all other people into the world!*
 - a. They were exposed: ⁷ **“Then [after Adam and Eve fell into sin] the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.** // Before they fell, they were truly innocent – *thus naked and unashamed!* However, the fall who destroyed their innocence, who brought immediate spiritual death, who made them ashamed, and who brought eventual physical death! Even though fig leaves grow up 10 inches long and 5 inches wide, they could NOT cover their nakedness or their sin; *they were exposed!*
 - b. They hid: ⁸ **And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of**



the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” // God is omniscient, so *He knows all things!* He knew Adam and Eve would eat the forbidden fruit, *and He certainly knew where they were hiding.* What about us... are we trying to hide our sins from God? We may try, *but we will never succeed!*

- c. They blamed: ¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² The man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” ... // You know the story – entitled, “The Blame Game!” Adam admitted eating, *but he refused to take responsibility,* so He blamed *♣ God for giving him the woman and ♣ the woman for giving him the fruit.* Then the woman continued *by blaming the serpent!* And what about us... who are we blaming for our sins? Rather than blame, *God wants us to admit and confess!*
- d. God covered their nakedness: ²⁰ The man called his wife’s name Eve [*meaning life*], 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. // Sin brought death, *but God promised that a future descendant of the woman would come to ♣ defeat the devil and ♣ destroy his evil work (3:15),* so it was fitting that Adam named the woman Eve – meaning Life, *which pointed to the Coming One who*

would bring the gift of eternal life! Then, since the leaves were inadequate for physical covering and animal blood would never cover sins, God made animal-skin clothes for Adam and Eve, which covered their physical bodies AND pointed ahead to the perfect spiritual covering of Jesus' holy, precious blood!

2. **Jesus**: The first Adam fell; now we come to Jesus, the Second Adam, *our Divine Champion in human flesh!*
- a. God covered our sin: Sometimes *to us* our sins don't seem that bad, or at least *not as bad as others*; however, ✦since God loves us and ✦since even one unforgiven sin will bring eternal condemnation, *God took radical action to remove our sins through Jesus!* As you think about what Jesus endured... *remember †who He is and †why He endured it!* **¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged [scourged] him. ² And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³ They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. ⁴ Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." ⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!?" ... // Since our sin is so powerful to condemn, *it required the Son of God in Jesus to †be severely beaten, †receive much pain from the crown of thorns, †be mocked with a purple robe, and †be pummeled over and over again with fists!* Since God and Jesus love us so much, Jesus**

¹ Victims were "lacerated with scourges even to the innermost veins and arteries, so that the hidden inward parts of the body, both their bowels and their members, were exposed to view."¹ Eusebius, *Church History*, Book 4, ch. 15, par. 4, *NPNF2* 1:189.

willingly endured it all in order to †cover our sins and †make us righteous in God’s sight!

- b. He was exposed: ²³ **When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts** [*probably a reference to His “belt, head covering, sandals, and outer garment” (TLSB, 1821)*], **one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom,** ²⁴ **so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, “They divided my garments among them [thus the four parts], and for my clothing they cast lots [thus the tunic]” [Psalm 22:18]. So the soldiers did these things... // As I mentioned earlier, God knows everything!** From before creation, God knew about †the fall, †His promise to save, and †the details of all that Jesus would endure to rescue us from eternal condemnation! When crucifixion is depicted, Jesus is usually shown with a loin cloth; however, *it is almost certain that He was totally exposed!* We could think about it in this way: Since our sins are totally exposed to God, Jesus had to be totally exposed in order to †suffer our shame, †pay our penalty, and †clothe us with His righteousness – *the very gift we received when we were baptized!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, *our God in human flesh*, T.Y. for being exposed for us in order to †cover our sins with Your righteousness and †restore our relationship with God!

Some content is from the series, Behold the Man (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2018).

CONNECT WITH US → Website: www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com
Podcast: Benefit from the Bible | Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230