

Pastor Ron Case
9/9/12

“Tent of Meeting” (3)

“When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions. Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!” (Psalms 65:3-4)

Separation of Sin

Genesis 3:8-11 – (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.’ (11) He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’”

Jeremiah 2:2-5 – (2) “Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the LORD, ‘I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown. (3) Israel was holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of his harvest. All who ate of it incurred guilt; disaster came upon them, declares the LORD. (4) Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the clans of the house of Israel. (5) Thus says the LORD: What wrong did your fathers find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthlessness, and became worthless?’”

Isaiah 59:1-2 – (1) “Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; (2) but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.”

Key Point: Sustained Sin Severs Us from God
--

Response:

(1) Consider Friendship

“You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, ‘He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us?’” (James 4:4-5)

(2) Choose Humility before Hardness of Heart Occurs

“But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, ‘God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ Submit yourselves therefore to God...”
(James 4:6-7)

(3) Clean Up & Join God in the Tent of Meeting

“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.” (James 4:8-10)

Questions:

What impacted me the most in this message?

Who does God reward? (Hebrews 11:6)

Do I regularly pitch a tent of meeting with God, or has my sin caused me to avoid God?

What does God require? (Micah 6:8; Ps. 51:17)