The Road to the Hill - Why Should Easter Matter to Me?

Genesis 3:1-7

3/23/25

This morning we're beginning a new series, a journey of sorts, as we head toward Easter. In the next few weeks, we’ll be talking about “The Road to the Hill”. There will be a break in the 3rd week, as I’ve asked Dennis to speak that Sunday, due to me being out of town that previous week, for work. And then we’ll be blessed by our Children’s “Granny’s Corner” Puppet Ministry, as they bring the message of Easter as told from their hearts. We’ll continue this series into Good Friday, Easter Morning, and then finish it off with one after Easter. With this blessed day only 5 weeks away my hope is that maybe, we’ll see like never before, why there is an Easter and what it means for us as a church, but more importantly, individuals.

What is the Big Deal with Easter? Easter is not just another holiday; it is the cornerstone of our faith. It is the celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection, which signifies victory over sin and death. But why is there such a big fuss about the cross, crucifixion, and resurrection? To understand this, we need to go back to the beginning, to the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:1-71.

Today we start at the beginning of this “Road”. This “Road to the Hill actually starts all the way back to the front of the Bible. This is where we find out the reason for the Road and for Easter.

* Genesis 3:1-7

***3****The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”* ***2****“Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied.****3****“It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’”* ***4****“You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman.****5****“God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”* ***6****The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful, and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So, she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too.****7****At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So, they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.*

**What is Going on in Genesis 3:1-7?**

**A. Adam and Eve rebel against God.**

1. They doubt God.

2. They distort what God has said.

3. They deny God's words.

4. They are convinced God is holding out on them.

5. They decide they know better than God what is right or wrong.

6. They have elevated themselves above God.

**B. Adam and Eve run from God.**

1. They lose their innocence.

2. They don't want to face God.

3. They try to hide from God.

4. They're exposed for who they are, and they don't like it.

5. They experience guilt for their actions.

6. They experience shame for their actions.

7. So, they run from God.

**C. Adam and Eve suffer the consequences of their action.**

1. Their rebellion causes problems for the rest of their lives.

2. Their rebellion ruins their relationship with God.

3. They rebellion separates them from God.

D. God extends mercy and grace (Genesis 3:21-22).

1. He removes them from the garden, so they don't live forever in this state.

2. Adam and Eve's effort to cover up their shame doesn't work (fig leaves).

3. God covers them Himself.

4. He provides the covering by sacrifice.

**III. What's this got to do with me?**

**A. It's a picture of our own rebellion against God.**

1. Read Romans 3:23

* + - *...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

2. Our actions portray our heart.

3. It's not so much the rules we break, but why we feel compelled to break them in the first place.

4. And this state of our heart is rebellion against God.

**B. It's a picture of our run from God.**

1. We live with the shame.

2. We live with the guilt.

3. We're exposed.

4. We've lost our innocence.

5. We try to cover up with all our solutions.

6. We run from God.

**C. It's a picture of our own ruin.**

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:22a.

Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam...

2. Read Romans 6:23a.

* + - *For the wages of sin is death...*

3. Our rebellion and our running ruin us.

4. The consequences are huge and eternal.

Closing:

**So, what’s the big deal with Easter? It’s because of Easter restoration can happen.**

* Romans 5:8

*But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*

* 1 Corinthians 15:22b (2nd part)

...everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life.

* Romans 6:23b (2nd part)

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.*

* Romans 3:24-25

*24 Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. 25 For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past,*

The only reason there is a 2nd part to these scriptures is because of God’s Road to the Hill...to Easter. Because of this Road that lead to the Hill...where the Cross was lifted, where our Savior hung by 3 nails, bleeding profusely and breathing His last breath for us...God has given His all for us to find and be a part of this restoration.

So how do we receive this restoration, this grace and mercy? All we have to do to receive this grace, mercy and forgiveness, is to acknowledge our need for restoration and salvation and turn to God.

* Romans 10:9

*If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

Romans 10:9 reminds us that if we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved! This is the essence of Easter – the promise of new life and restoration through faith in Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, Easter is a celebration of God's incredible love and grace. It is a reminder that despite our rebellion, God offers us a path to restoration through Jesus Christ. As we journey towards Easter, let us reflect on the Road to the Hill and the significance of this event which we’ll be celebrating in 5 weeks. Let us this morning, embrace the hope and new life it brings. **Let us pray for the strength to live in the light of this truth, trusting in God's promises and His unfailing love and thanking our Savior for taking the Road to the Hill for us.**