

“Wanna Get Away?” - Genesis 3:1-13
Pastor Burt Garwood – July 30, 2017

Do you remember those Southwest Airlines “Wanna get away?” commercials from a few years back? People did embarrassing things and then the tagline: “Wanna get away?”

- We want to get away when we make a mistake or say something not so intelligent.
- We want to get away when we accidentally break something that means something special to someone else.
- Or we do something embarrassing in public.

It’s the same with sin. We want to get away when we sin.

- We want to disappear, be invisible, fly away to a far-away place, or go back in time.
- And so, we cut and run.
- Part of the reason to get away is the emotions we experience. We feel shame, or guilt or the depth of an emotion that we can’t fully describe. But we know it hurts.

We also want to get away from God...whether we fully realize it or not.

- The reality is that sin separates us from God. It breaks our relationship with him because God can have no part in sin.
- Sin is disobedience to our Father-God’s will and plan for our lives.

The first people who wanted to get away were Adam and Even in the Garden of Eden.

- After they realized their wrong choice, that they had not listened to God and had deliberately disobeyed him, they were ashamed and they hid. Their sin caused a separation from God. READ: Genesis 3:8-9
- God says, “Where are you?” He comes looking for them.
- He knew they had sinned. And he knew where they were hiding. He wasn’t asking them because he couldn’t find them. He was pursuing them to win them back.
- God says, “Where are you? I love you and I miss you and we can make this right again. What are you wearing? Fig leaves? I can make better clothes for you.” Verse 21 says that the Lord made leather clothes for them. Because he cared about them.
- Adam and Eve sinned. They tried to get away. But God lovingly pursued them. And in verse 15, he promised them that his Son our Savior Jesus Christ would someday conquer sin.

Another person in the Bible who wanted to get away was Jonah.

- Jonah boarded a ship in the opposite direction of where God was calling him.
- God pursued him too, with a storm that threatened to sink the ship. Jonah knew the storm was meant for him. So he had the sailors throw him overboard, assuring them that the storm would go away.
- God sends a large fish to swallow Jonah and save him from drowning, and it spits him up on dry land. Jonah, given a second chance at life, chooses to follow God.

Another person in the Bible who wanted to get away was Abraham in Genesis 12.

- Abraham told Pharaoh that his wife Sarah was actually his sister, for fear of being killed by Pharaoh. Pharaoh took her into his court.
- But God inflicted a serious disease on Pharaoh. And Pharaoh comes to the conclusion that Sarah is Abraham’s wife. He summons Abraham, “Why didn’t you tell me Sarah was your wife? Get away from me before the Lord does more harm to me.”
- Embarrassing moment for Abraham. I can imagine Abraham just wanting to get away.

Paul talked about the struggle between his sinful desires and his spirit wanting to honor God. He wanted to get away from his sinful desires. READ: Romans 7:21-25

Sin will make you want to cut and run. Every time.

But that’s where God enters the picture. That’s where grace comes in.

- Psalm 103:12 “...as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.”
- Romans 5:8 “*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*”
- We talked about Peter two weeks ago, who when he realized he was in the presence of Jesus, that he cried out, “Get away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man.”
- But God doesn’t walk away. And he doesn’t let us walk away either.

You can exercise your freedom to get away. But God will not stop passionately pursuing you and trying to win your heart, to bring you back to a right relationship with him.

He loves you that much.

John 10:28 Jesus said, “*I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.*”

No matter what you’ve done.
No matter how embarrassing it is.
How unforgivable it might seem.
How enchained you might feel.

No matter how much you feel like you just need to cut and run...and get away...

Your Father-God is calling you home.
There is no need to cut and run.

Come home.