

## Five Men and Five Trees Genesis 3:8

INTRO: Our subject is Five men and Five Trees. Each man and each tree has an important lesson for us. We have:

- A SINFUL MAN BEHIND A TREE
- A SINCERE MAN UNDER A TREE
- A SEEKING MAN UP A TREE
- A SAVIOR MAN ON A TREE
- A SAVED MAN LIKE A TREE

### I. A SINFUL MAN BEHIND A TREE(Gen. 3:8)

A. Man was created in the image of God-(Gen.1:27-28). He was an extension of the presence of God. He was an expression of the person of God. He was an exhibit of the power of God.

1. Man's original understanding was a lamp of light.
  - a. Man had perfect knowledge of God's law and his duty to it. Now man is depraved and tainted.
  - b. Man lacked no knowledge because he was made in God's image.
  - c. Adam gave names to all the beasts of the field and fowl of the air (Gen. 2:19-20).
  - d. Adam had dominion over the creatures meaning that he had knowledge of their natures (Gen. 1:28). Better than Jack Hanna.
  - e. Originally man had perfect strength , perfect right, perfect love and emotion. No chemical imbalance.
2. Man's original will was in all things agreeable with God. He had no inclination to do evil.
  - a. Man did not love sin he hated it.
  - b. What pleased God pleased Adam.
3. Man originally was a very glorious creature. As the face of Moses shone when he came down from the mountain, I believe Adam and Eve radiated the holiness and light of God because there was no sin or darkness in them.

4. Originally man had perfect peace within and calm without.
  - a. There was no sin to annoy him.
  - b. No pain, weakness, sweat, disease, and no death.
- B. God gave Adam a beautiful wife Eve (Gen. 2:21-22).
  1. They had a beauty contest and Eve won, a Mr. Universe contest and Adam won.
  2. They were in a state of pure delight and pure pleasure.
- C. Into this state of bliss, Satan entered (Gen. 3:1).
  1. Satan cast doubt on the word of God, "Yea, hath God said..." (Gen. 3:1-6).
  2. Doubt of the word of God brings:
    - a. Disobedience
    - b. Distress
    - c. Destruction
- D. Man sinned - (Gen. 3:6)
  1. Man died spiritually and began dying physically (Gen. 3:17).
    - a. Adam brought physical death on mankind (Rom. 5:12) "Wherefore, as by one man sin ..."
    - b. Adam brought spiritual death upon mankind (Rom. 6:23) "The wages of sin is death..."
  2. The glory of God's holiness was no longer on man and Adam and Eve saw their nakedness and tried to clothe themselves with fig leaves (Gen. 3:7).
    - a. They must have felt sick for the first time.
    - b. They felt an emptiness they had never felt before.
- E. They dreaded God's daily visit to the garden.
  1. What they once joyed in; now, they dreaded.
  2. Adam and Eve hid behind the trees (Gen. 3:8).
  3. God called out to Adam "Where art thou?"
    - a. The word of God brought Adam and Eve under conviction and they came out (Gen. 3:10).
    - b. Rom. 10:17 "Faith cometh by hearing.."
  4. Grace is seen here in Genesis three.

- a. God seeks the sinner- (vs. 9). He went where they were hiding, God went to seek and to save.
  - b. Blood was shed to cover their nakedness (Gen. 3:21). God provided the covering not man.
  - c. The covering was provided at the cost of shed blood.
  - d. This is the first picture of Christ's atonement (I Peter 3:18 ; Isa. 61:10).
- F. The sinful man can be cleansed by the Word.

## II. A SINCERE MAN UNDER A TREE(John 1:47-48)

- A. Nathaniel was a sincere man. He had no "guile", the Greek word is *do/dos* meaning "dishonesty, deceit, subtlety." He had no Jacob. Some believe that they do not need salvation because of how good they are. "All have sinned..."
- B. Vs. 48, Jesus had seen this sincere man sitting under the fig tree. This must have caught Nathaniel's attention!
- C. Vs. 49, The man under the tree was saved by believing on Christ.

## III. A SEEKING MAN UP A TREE(Luke 19:1-10)

- A. Vss. 1-4, Jesus passed through the city of palm trees and there was a man named Zacchaeus a tax- collector living there. He sought to see Jesus Verse 4 tells us that he climbed sycamore tree seeking to see the Messiah .
- B. Vs. 3 says,"He sought to see Jesus.." He wanted to know who he really was.
- C. Vs. 4, The seeking man climbed a tree "to see Jesus..." He forgot who he was, All he wanted was Christ.
- D. Vs. 5, This verse tells us that Christ had an eye on Zacchaeus long before the tax collector sought to see Jesus.
- E. Vs. 6, The seeking man joyfully received Christ.
- F. Vs. 7, Always there are detractors.
- G. Vs. 8, Evidence of conversion.
- H. Vs. 9, Zacchaeus was now a spiritual son of Abraham.
- I. Vs. 10, Jesus came to seek and to save seeking men.

- IV. A SAVIOR MAN ON A TREE (Luke 23:32-43)
  - A. Vss. 32-33, The cross is an instrument of death-Christ died for our sins (Rom. 5:8)
  - B. Vs. 34, the petition of Jesus from the cross.
    - 1. A petition of love- redeeming love.
    - 2. A petition of purpose- only through the cross could God forgive sin.
      - a. As Christ prepared for the cross, He said of the wine: "This is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matthew 26:28)
      - b. "Without shedding of blood there is no remission" (Heb. 9:22).
  - C. Vss. 35,39 The foolishness of the cross to those who do not believe (I Cor. 1:18,23-24).
  - D. Vs. 38, A true announcement.
  - E. Vss. 40-42, Confession of the saved thief.
    - 1. Vs. 40, He had come to fear God. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.."
    - 2. Vs. 41, He admitted his guilt (Rom. 3:10,23).
    - 3. Vs. 42, From a believing heart he makes this statement (Rom. 10-14).
    - 4. Vs. 47, The lifted up Savior drew to Himself the centurion (Mt. 27:54).
  
- V. A SAVED MAN LIKE A TREE (Psalms1:1-3)
  - A. Planted by the river waters :
    - 1. The water of the word.
    - 2. The water of the Holy Spirit-into the roots-
  - B. Fruit to be after his own kind- reproducing(Prov. 11:30).
  - C. "Leaf shall not wither."
    - 1. Eternal security
    - 2. Once saved always saved.

CONCLUSION: One man and one Savior is what we are talking about. The sinful needs to get out from behind the tree and get to be the sincere man under the tree and seek the Savior man on a tree, then he will become a saved man like a tree.

