

Today we have the second part of the Creation Story, where we see the beginning of “the Hide-and-Seek” game between humanity and God. This game started in the Garden of Eden, just after Adam and Eve had eaten of the forbidden fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 3).

This “Hide-and-Seek” game between humanity and God got started because humankind did not trust God and God’s story. Since then, this game continues on in the story of Cain and Abel (Genesis 4), the story of Noah (Genesis 6), and the story of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11). Also, it continues on in the stories of the New Testament era and in the stories in the 21st Century in our daily lives.

In this game, however, we often forget that God has the advantage over us like He had over Adam and Eve because He knows all, and He sees all (Psalm 139). Simply put, we cannot hide from God. He will always win the game of hide-and-seek. God is the all-time universal champion of hide-and-seek. He knew exactly where Adam and Eve were hiding, but He chose to play along until Adam allowed himself to be found by God. Likewise, God will play along with us until we allow ourselves to be found by God in this game of “Hide-and-Seek.”

Like Adam and Eve, we may find ourselves trying to hide from God. We may want to hide from God because we feel guilty about doing something in life that we know does not meet God’s approval. Or, maybe we want to hide from God because we are trying to avoid including Him in some critical decisions we need to make. Or because we just do not want Him involved in our lives at all. The reasons for hiding from God are plenteous but ultimately pointless since we cannot hide from God. As God did with Adam and Eve, He may play along to make us think we have successfully hidden, but He knows exactly where we are.

At other times in life, it feels as if God is hiding from us. We encounter a trial in life, and we wonder, “God, where are You?” No matter how much we pray and ask for His help, it seems as if He is nowhere to be found. It feels like God is the one hiding and doing it quite well. But the truth is just as we cannot hide from God, He cannot hide from us. Psalm 46:1 says, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Jesus said in Matthew 28:20, “...behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” The Bible promises that God does not hide from us. In fact, the Bible teaches that if we seek Him, we will find Him.

Jesus said in Luke 11:9, "...ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find."

When it feels like God is hiding from us, it may be that we are overlooking Him. He may be "hiding" in plain sight, but we fail to see Him because we keep looking for Him only where we believe He should be. We try to find Him in the eloquent words of a great theologian only to miss discovering Him in a conversation with a homeless person on the street. We seek Him in the sacred Scriptures only to miss Him in the spray-painted John 3:16 on the side of a building. We look for Him in megachurches only to overlook Him in the gathering of two or three Christians (Matthew 18:20). God does not hide from us, but sometimes we fail to see Him because we only look for God where we believe He should be found.

If today you feel that God is hiding from you, then I say, look around you. Look everywhere, even in places you think He could never be found. You may discover Him in the least of all places. And if you are trying to hide from God, then I say, don't bother. You cannot hide from God. Our God is the hide-and-seek champion of the universe. He knows exactly where you are, and He is with you because He said, "I will never leave you, nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

Because we are found by God, we come to God's table today to break the bread and share the cup of the new covenant.