



Sin Changes Everything

“People often rationalize their actions by using the old phrase, ‘The end justifies the means.’ I’ll do whatever I need to right now, and then later I’ll do the right thing. The problem is that usually by the end, you’ve become the means.” - Anna Quindlen, *Newsweek*, May 26, 2008

We call Genesis 3 “The Fall,” but that sounds almost accidental, as though we inadvertently trip and fall head over heels into sin; as though it’s not really us to blame, just “Oops, we fell.” But as *The Story* makes clear, Adam and Eve deliberately chose their path; and the rest of us have followed in their footsteps.

So we face life in the less than ideal world beyond the garden – in a hardscrabble world where nothing is easy, nothing is as it should be – a world broken until the end of time. Is there anyone who has not seen a dream turned to dust? A hope of perfection reduced to rubble?

What we’ve done is try to fashion our own pathways to God. We share Eve’s sin and make **ourselves** God. We try to make a name for ourselves. Yet, all our attempts leave us farther from God and farther from the garden than ever.

The sad fact is: Sin changes everything.

In the Bible, only the first two chapters of Genesis and the last two chapters of Revelation give us a glimpse into life in a world without sin, a world as God intended it to be. When we compare our world with what the world was like before sin, we learn that nothing is as it should be. Nothing. Sin changes everything.

But now, the good news.

Immediately after the fall, God begins His plan to get us back into a right relationship with Him; and that story never changes even to the last chapter of the Bible.

After the first sin, God immediately promised the final act of redemption. And with each successive story: Cain and Abel, Abraham and Isaac, Jacob and Esau, Brad and Bill, ... with each successive story, including yours and mine, God shows His repeated faithfulness to redeem both ourselves and our choices.

God is in relentless pursuit of man. God is always the pursuer. We will see in the next few weeks and months that there is no place He will not go, literally to hell and back, to pursue and redeem his children.

Reflection:

1. What would you say is the most devastating effect of sin? What would you say is the worst casualty of sin?
2. If you could go back in time, what one relationship marred by sin would you restore first?
3. Where did God find you?
4. How does the fact that God pursued you, change everything for you?