

# Garden tree

Easter thought

John 20:1-18

Story of Jesus meeting Mary in the garden.

Today is Resurrection Sunday. We come to church to celebrate what God did for us through Jesus Christ. What power, what victory we have. We celebrate in worship. We celebrate in giving. We celebrate in reaffirming our decision to follow Christ.

Many people know the story of the resurrection. It's a powerful story. Today I want to look at something quite simply amazing. Something many people just brush past to see the overall picture of the resurrection.

**God planned our salvation.** Every little detail was foretold by the prophets. Nothing was left to chance. God knew that to fix something that was broken and overturn the victory of the enemy in the garden He had to initiate a plan that would forever change the course of history. Human History.

## 1. How did you come to know Christ as your Saviour?

Today I want to talk to you about the **amazing detail God went to** so that the price was paid for our sin. He left nothing to chance. He even planned the events, the location that caused the sin to be so similar to the event and location of the victory over sin.

Two very small details I want to talk about to show you how much God loves you.

A tree

A garden

### The story of the tree and the story of the garden

#### First tree and Garden

In Genesis 2:8 we have Adam and Eve in a garden. Totally in connection with God. Nothing is hindering them. Perfect relationship.

In the centre of this garden lives a tree (Genesis 2:9) that they were not allowed to eat from. (2:16-17) It looked good.

So we have a garden and a tree.

In Genesis 3 Adam and Eve were then tricked into eating from the tree and the first sin was committed. **The first sin was committed the taking of the fruit from the tree.** They took the fruit from the tree. Literally God was disobeyed.

The 'taking' of the fruit of that tree was disconnection with God. The fruit wasn't the issue, the taking was. Removal from the garden. We were rejected from having a direct path to God. God chose to show the world a pattern of what was required to cover sin by providing skins of animals. Blood had to be shed to cover sin. **The sin needed covering so that man could get back into connection with God.**

## 2. Why did God have to remove Adam and Eve from the garden?

Sin removes the connection we are meant to have with God. The shedding of blood restores connection.

### Second tree and garden

In Matthew, Mark, Luke and John we see the story of Jesus death and resurrection.

Amazingly we find a garden - The garden of Gethsemane. Matthew 26:36

Amazingly we find a tree - The cross of Jesus.

Jesus went to pray in the garden. Jesus was betrayed in a garden. Jesus was arrested in the garden. Matthew 26:47 Jesus was convicted and sentenced to death on a tree. Mark 15:20-21

After death, Jesus was found in a garden and assumed to be a gardener. This time he is not arrested. This time He is not thrown out. This time He is sought after.

Two gardens and two trees. Each with spiritual significance. Each with a victory.

**The parallels are quite striking. The coincidence startling. The contrasts are compelling.**

### The tree

- One tree gave us sin. One tree gave us life.
- One took away our innocence, one gave us back our innocence.
- Adam pulled sin off the tree when he disobeyed God. Jesus had the sin laid on him when he died on the cross. Isaiah 53:6 the Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all.
- One tree gave us the knowledge of good and evil. One tree gave us the freedom from good and evil. John 8:36 if the son sets you free you are free.
- One tree gave us rejection and condemnation, one tree gave us acceptance. Ephesians 1:6 accepted in the beloved.
- God gave us one tree because of our free will and we chose to disobey. God gave us one tree and we can choose to accept His gift or not.
  - God does not and will not force His will on us. He sets before us a choice and says 'Choose you this day whom you will serve'.

## **The garden**

- Adam and Eve choose to disobey God in one garden thus bringing upon us a curse. Jesus chose to pay the price of that curse in one garden. Galatians 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law having become a curse for us. For it is written cursed is he who dies on a tree.

## **3. What blessings has God got for you? (Read Deut 28:1-12)**

- . One garden lead to life one garden lead to death. Luke 22:42 yet not my will but your be done.
- We were expelled from one garden. We became accepted through one garden.
- One man ran and hid from the presence of God, one woman ran to find the presence of God.
- One man was ashamed of what he had done. One woman pushed past cultural distain, shame and possible imprisonment to seek out God.
- One man was tricked into sinning one garden. One man freely offered himself in one garden.
- One man was condemned to hardship and sickness, one man was healed in one garden. (Soldier who had his ear chopped off)

The parallels are quite significant.

### **This Easter where are you?**

#### **God has a tree for you.**

It's the cross of Jesus. It smashes the barriers between you and God. Ephesians 2:14 That wall between you and God has been removed. The cross is so powerful. It deals with the punishment you where meant to get.

It bares the guilt and curse of sin.

For through one mans disobedience all were made sinners, through ones man's obedience all are made righteous. Romans 5:19

It is a glorious tree.

#### **God has a Garden for you.**

It's a garden where you can always have access to God.

It's a garden with freedom to serve the king.

It's a garden with redemption in mind.

It's fruit is acceptance, truth, love, peace, joy, hope, patience, wisdom and life.

God has a garden for you! A special place for you to experience a satisfaction no one else can give. It's a garden he created specifically for you.

Are you still not in the garden God created for you? Do you want to get into God's garden for you? A place of total acceptance. A place of total love.

### **What is your response to the garden you find yourself in?**

Everyone of us, place ourselves in a garden. Your garden can be full of all the wrong things. Everyone of us choose the tree we take refuge in.

### **What is your response to God?**

Will you run and hide or will you run and embrace?

### **This Easter run and embrace God.**

Push past shame. Push past embarrassment. Push past possible rejection. God is waiting for you. He loves you. He put everything into place so that you could come back to Him. He knows it is impossible for man to reach God without him. WE fall short all the time. So God sent His son. He paid the price. WE get to celebrate the victory. Run to God today.

**Oh but pastor I cant hear the voice of God.** Just because you cant recognize the voice of God doesn't mean He is silent.

Mary at first did not recognize Jesus. She thought he was just a gardener. Yes he was gardener, or at very least the son of a gardener as Jesus called his father a gardener in John 15, but far much more than that.

He is speaking today. He is calling out to you. Come and spend some time with me. Come and hear my voice. He is calling your name.

**You might not recognize His voice straight away but be assured he is speaking.** He is talking to you right now. He is telling you how much he loves you and paid the price for you. God loves you.

## **4. How can you show your love back to God better through service?**

Today is resurrection Sunday. Gods plans for you are very detailed. Jeremiah 29:11 for I know the thoughts and plans I think for you are good. He knows what he is doing. Everything will come together. 'All things work together for good to those who love and are called according to His Purpose'. You are being called today. God wants you to live in the garden he made for you around the tree he created for you.

Today I want to give you the choice to come to God. He is calling and speaking right now.