

Intro.

- A. **Mother's Day** is a very special day, & has been since Julia Ward Howe suggested it be dedicated to peace in 1872.
1. In ancient Greece, 1st celebrations in honor of mothers were held in the spring.
 2. During 17th Cent., England celebrated what was called **Mothering Sunday**.
 3. Anna Mae Jarvis receives credit for the official celebration of “Mother's Day” in remembrance of her mother who died in 1905. → She had established “Mother's Friendship Days” as means of healing the scars of the Civil War.
- B. **Mothers** are very special people to most all of us.
1. Cannot place of value on all lessons taught, clothes washed, band aids applied, meals prepared, b-day cakes decorated, sleepovers coordinated & prayers prayed by our mothers (to mention few).
 2. Adam was incomplete w/o Eve, & the home is in peril w/o godly Mothers & Fathers.
 3. Among the numerous activities mothers engage in is playing games, the 1st of which was hide-&-seek.
- C. Behind what trees were Adam & Eve hiding???

Discuss.**I. THE TREE OF → S-I-N.**

- A. 1st pair had broken their Creator's direct command, their human footsteps = 1st on the sands of transgression.
1. They < be last to make such obvious tracks; infact **EVERYONE** follows in their footsteps, **Rom. 3:23**
 2. Sin = breaking God's laws, **1 Jn. 3:4** (i.e., trespassing, stepping across a fixed boundary as if not there).
- B. Basically, all of us (i.e., **sinner**s) = spiritual criminals, awaiting a certain fate.
1. Criminals should anticipate **being caught & apprehended, tried- Mt. 7:22, convicted, sentenced-2 Cor. 5:10 & punished, Mt. 8:12**
 2. Others convicted: Cain (**Gn. 4:9-11**), David – **2 Sam. 12:1**, Ahab **1 Kgs. 2:20**.
- C. Nothing can prevent us from being convicted of our sins.
1. If distance would deliver man f/ sin, Jonah would not have been convicted.
 2. Blackness of darkness is ineffective to hid our sin f/ God, **Psa. 139:11-12**
 3. Secrecy > protection (**Psa. 19:12; Ecc. 12:14; Heb. 4:13**)
 4. Study of **Amos 9:2-3** reveals that there is no place to hide f/ God.
 5. Even the passing of time will not erase our sins, c. **Nun. 32:23**
- D. Man's only hope is the forgiveness of our sins, **Eph. 1:7**.

II. The TREE OF → S-E-P-A-R-A-T-I-O-N.

- A. Text says, **Adam & his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord among the trees of the garden, v.8**
1. It's a natural instinct to try to hide when we know we have done something wrong.
 - a. Classic ex. = Jonah, who fled to *Tarshish from the presence of the Lord*, **Jonah 1:3**
 - b. Are you still trying to conceal your sin, anxious & uneasy about who may find out???????????
 2. Before their sin, Adam & Eve enjoyed God's company; after they disobeyed, they hid f/ Him.
- B. Sin still separates man f/ God, **Isa. 59:2**
1. If sin goes on unresolved & not forgiven, it will result in **eternal separation 2 Thes. 1:9**.
 - a. The most desperate & horrifying cries that echoed f/ Golgatha ...(**Mt. 27:46**)
 - b. The reason for such a agonizing cry f/ Lord's lips is explained in **2 Cor. 5:21**
 2. Thankfully we notice that when a man seeks to hide, God seeks to find & reach out to him.
 - a. By a “?”, God sought Adam – *Where are you?*
 - b. Jonah was a harder case, requiring the power of a storm & a gt. sea creature to get him to face God.
 - c. With David, it took the tenacity of a prophet, **2 Sam. 12:1-9**
 - d. Today God seeks us thru Christ, **Lk. 19:10** & His glorious Gospel **Rom. 1:16**.
 - e. The Good Shepherd seeks lost sheep - **Jn. 10:11**, the Father still interested in their return, **Lk. 15:20**

III. TREE OF → I-N-S-E-C-U-R-I-T-Y

- A. Sin steals our courage. (**Gn. 3:10** – *I heard Your voice, and I was afraid... & I hid...*)
1. Solomon – *The wicked flee when no man pursues; but the righteous are as bold as a lion*, **Prov. 28:1**
 2. Psalmist spoke of those who were “...in great fear, where no fear was” **Psa. 53:5**
 3. The Israelites feared God’s voice (c. **Ex. 19 - 32**), & they had good reason to be afraid.
- B. Remember there are 2 kinds of fear.
1. One = kind that causes us to hid, fearing punishment & pain, **c. 2 Tim. 1:7**
 2. Other type of fear is desirable; it instills respect & determination to do what is right, **Ecc. 12:13**
 3. In His wisdom, God knew we needed both kinds of fear to motivate us in right direction, **Rom.11:22**
 4. (c. **2 Thes. 1:7-8 & Lk. 19:16-31**)

IV. TREE OF → S-H-A-M-E.

- A. Daniel was speaking w/ reference to unforgiven sin that will land a person in a place of *shame & everlasting contempt*, **Dan. 12:2**
1. In Eve’s home, faces flushed with embarrassment & shame for 1st time in history.
 2. Shame is like a knife that cuts our conscience every time we remember our sin & guilt!!!
- B. Eve & her husband vainly tried to hide their shame with fig leaves, to no avail. (**Gn. 3:7**)
1. Since sin begins in the heart (& that is where we feel the shame so deeply), no external efforts to sooth our consciences are effective.
 2. Man’s salvation cannot be found in
 - a. gov. relief programs
 - b. education
 - c. psychiatry (having right therapists)
 - d. better job
 - e. or even in just living a good moral life
 3. Many make excuses (blame family members, relig. hypocrites, circumstances)
- C. Only when we allow Christ’s blood to wash our sins away in His blood, & we stand pure & clean before God, can we have a clean conscience & pure heart. **Gal. 3:26-29; Rev. 7:14 & 19:8**

Concl.

1. Adam & Eve hid, trying to put off facing God.
 - a. Some how, that always *seems* easier → *Just wait a little while...Time heals all wounds.*
 - b. Is that what you have been doing up to this point?
2. Have you been trying to hid your sin, pretending like it doesn’t exist, and that you have no shame?
3. The **only hope** is to realize – ***I CANNOT HIDE FROM GOD !***
 - a. If you are an erring, unfaithful Christian who needs to come confessing you sins, we stand anxious & ready to receive you as our brother or sister, & pray to God for His forgiveness & reconciliation.
 - b. If you have never obeyed the Lord in baptism for the remission of your sins, we would love to assist you in your obedience this very moment...