

## Discovering What God Actually Thinks About You.

### Part 2: Is God Mad At Me?

#### Genesis 2-3

**INTRO:** If there is a God, what does he think about you? Typical feeling... he's mad.

Seems like everyone is mad about something... so God's definitely mad about something... and probably mad about something you've done too, right?

Is God really just like everyone else... easily annoyed and angered and offended?

What if we're wrong about how God sees us? What if he's different? What if he's better? What if he's actually not mad at you at all?

Let's talk about it together.

**WE:** Most of us think if there is a God, he's probably not very happy with us.

Could easily make a list... in fact go ahead make a list of all the things you think God is mad at you for... J/K.

"Sure God loves me but that doesn't mean he isn't bothered, annoyed, mad at me.

Doesn't mean his patience isn't wearing a bit thin by now."

And who wants to feel judged, looked down on, disappointed in...

So we try to avoid/hide from him... b/c who needs that? BUT...

**What we think we know about God keeps us from discovering what God thinks about us.**

As we said in last episode... God wants us to know who he really is...

**GOD:**

How would you introduce yourself to your kids? What is the main thing you would want them to know about you?

God introducing himself to Israelites by telling a story- Genesis

Creation- God loves us... but what is this love like?

Continues story w/ Adam/Eve... Jesus alludes to them being real.

Whether actual first two, first humanoids with enough consciousness, chosen representatives for the race, or a meant just as metaphorical story... we can see the truth of who God is and what he actually thinks about us.

**2:15-17**

From very beginning... based their relationship on trust... "All you have to do is trust that I will give you everything you need and then enjoy all that I have created for you."

**God bases relationships on trust.**

Think about it... He gave them all they needed and more... and only one rule. Millions of "yeses" and one "no."

**God's gifts are immeasurable and his requirements are minimal.**

We assume it's the other way around, why is that? Where does that come from? ...

Why the tree at all? I don't know. Funny how we still focus... on the one thing they couldn't do.. Right?

Possible explanation... Created Innocent but not righteous. Righteousness is remaining innocent in the face of temptation. Using our free will to choose to trust the goodness of God.

**Love requires free will... God gives us the choice to either trust him or not.**

So... for who knows how long... Adam and Eve trusted God and enjoyed everything he had given them.

Naked... Perfect world/ perfect relationship with each other, perfect relationship with God...

But after a while, for some reason, Adam and Eve grew discontent with all the gifts God had given them.

They chose to listen to lies (text says from serpent) that God couldn't be trusted, that he was keeping something from them... and ate from the one NO tree.

And b/c of that decision sin entered the world. Sin- What I want is more important than you.

Sin- Rejecting what it means to be fully human... Rejecting the natural relationship of trust between God and humanity...

**Sin in the result of refusing to trust God is who he says he is.**

We don't understand the gravity, the severity of sin entering the world.

A world with sin is all we know... like fish who don't know what it is not to be wet... your voice in a microphone.

But from that point on everything that was once perfect was now subject to decay and corruption.

And for the first time... Adam and Eve experienced what we all now experience b/c of sin... shame, fear, and separation.

**Sin creates shame, fear, and separation.**

**3:7-8**

Hid from each other... an emotional and physical separation. Fear of rejection. Fear of fully being known and vulnerable.

We still hide our true selves from each other

Hid from God.

**Sin makes us afraid of God**... we know what we've done and assume he's like us... when someone rejects/turns against we get mad

Why it's hard to believe he is FOR us. B/c we wouldn't be for us if we were him...

**3:9-10** "Called to"

They just ruined everything, purposely rebelled, assumed the worst of God...

But God didn't turn from them, shun them, yell at them, or make it so they couldn't hear him...

He doesn't scold or reprimand. Not "Where are you..Get out here right this minute! Now you're going to get it!"

He pursues them... He seeks them out... Initiates dialogue to restore the relationship... How?

He asks a simple but profound question, "Where are you?"

A good question for all of us. Think about it... Where are you?

Adam- "I was hiding from you."

Hiding because he didn't know... **When our fear and shame make us hide... God's love compels him to restore us.**

**3:11-12** Tried to avoid shame by placing blame.

'The woman' - Blamed Eve

'You gave' - Blamed God- "YOU let this happen. YOU could have stopped it. YOU made her and put her here. And seriously why did you put this tree here in the first place?"

Then Eve blames serpent.

How would you respond? Your kid purposely disobeys you, assumes the worst about you, and then instead of owning up to it... blames you, their girlfriend, and the pet snake?

God was clear about what would happen... "if you eat you are sure to die."

God had every right to just kill them and start over... but instead, he reveals who he truly is...

**3:14-15** Serpent/Satan... sin/evil/death.

(“offspring”)- Plural. All humankind. All humanity will be subject to the consequences of sin and will constantly have it battling against them.

(“He”). Singular. Hmm, seems out of place.

God switches from talking about the human race to one particular *human*.

Someone who would come and crush sin/evil/death... set humanity free from the power of sin and restore creation to its perfection...

At the very moment Adam and Eve ruined everything... God promises to come into their mess and fix it in order to restore their relationship.

Jesus claimed to be that person and then proved who he was and proved God’s true heart for us by dying to free us from the power of sin and rising from the dead and conquering the ultimate separation created by sin... death.

**Jesus destroyed the separation sin created.**

God promises to fix it... then tells them their natural consequences/what this separation will cause...

Childbirth will be painful, relationships will be painful, work will be painful...

And one day you will die and return to the dust you came from...

Have to leave the garden...

But theres one more little detail.. That reveals how God actually thinks about us...

**3:21** God personally clothed them. Covered their newly found shame.

Even though they chose to rebel, he gave them what they needed and proved his love and care for them.

No matter what you think or what you feel...

**God sees you with compassion and care**

**YOU:** This is how God chose to introduce himself to Israel.

He is not pointing a finger at us... He’s waiting with open arms. Chasing to hug like me and kids.

The story of Adam and Eve shows you can never run so far that God won’t forgive, pursue, and fight to restore you.

## God is persistently pursuing our restoration.

In fact the rest of BW's is the story of God's pursuit and restoration... Abraham, Israel, Moses, David... Jesus, NT show what it means to live in that restoration.

Paul put it this way... **Romans 5:18**

God is asking, "Where are YOU?"

He's not asking in order to judge you. He's asking b/c he wants to restore your relationship with him,

He wants you to know him, to enjoy him, to know and experience his never ending, never giving up, always and forever love.

Where are you?

Hiding from him Or Enjoying his love? Avoiding him b/c you feel shame/guilt?

He is not mad at you. He is FOR you b/c he loves you.

If someone is willing to die for you they are for you.

**Enjoy/Read: Psalm 103.**

**Pray: Here I am. Show me your love.**

**WE** What if we could stop hiding or running, and would simply enjoy God's full embrace?

What if we knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that God is not mad at us... but he loves us and is for us?

That his love is not dependent on anything we do or don't do.

**What if your kids knew this**... what would their future look like?

What if your neighbors and your co-workers knew that God was for them?

What if our sin wasn't an opportunity to hide from God but to turn to him and be reminded of his unending, limitless love?

**God is not mad at you. He is lovingly pursuing you.**

### Summary:

If there is a God, what does he think about you? Our typical answer is: he's mad. It seems like everyone is mad about something, so God definitely is too. And, probably mad about something we've done too, right? But, what if we're wrong about how God sees us? What if he's different? What if he's better? What if he's actually not mad at you at all?

## Episode Breakdown

- 00:00 Everyone's just mad
- 01:42 A good way to understand Genesis
- 02:56 Adam and Eve, for real?
- 05:10 Where things went wrong...
- 08:14 How God reacted to them
- 10:03 Blame game
- 11:30 The serpent...
- 13:24 An interesting detail
- 14:30 what the story shows
- 15:25 Where are YOU?
- 16:30 A challenge
- 18:09 Qs and Updates

## Main Points

- Most of us think if there is a God, he's probably not very happy with us.
- What we think we know about God keeps us from discovering what God thinks about us.
- God bases relationships on trust.
- Sin in the result of refusing to trust God is who he says he is.
- Sin creates shame, fear, and separation.
- When our fear and shame make us hide... God's love compels him to restore us.
- Jesus destroyed the separation sin created.
- God sees you with compassion and care.
- God is persistently pursuing our restoration.
- God is not mad at you. He is lovingly pursuing you.

## This week's challenge:

Enjoy/Read: Psalm 103.

Pray: Here I am. Show me your love.

## Discussion Questions

1. Jon said, "God sees you with compassion and care." How have you experienced this truth this week?
2. Why do you think we sometimes feel that God is mad at us instead of lovingly pursuing us?
3. Take some time and read Psalm 103 together. What are one or two ideas that stand out to you the most?
4. In what ways do you think you run from God? What would it look like to simply enjoy his full embrace?
5. How can your group pray with you this week?

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## SHOW NOTES

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