

Jesus as the Second Adam

The Nemes of God series week #5

by Chris Famisaran

Let's pray. Father in heaven, thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to once again continue to come together and to talk about and learn more about you, especially today as the second Adam. In Jesus' name, Amen.

How many of you as parents remember when you first boarded your first flight with your first child? Was it a wonderful experience? Were you terrified? Jake and Kelly Levine, recently, I think it was either late last year or earlier this year, boarded a flight. It was their second flight with their five-month-old daughter, Romy. And they were just hoping and praying, please, please be good. Before the flight, Kelly mentions that she was very anxious. You never know if people around you are going to be bothered by your child. And it was only her second flight. They were coming back from vacation. And according to Kelly, Romi was sitting down and I think either to the left or right, she was so transfixed, in fact, entranced by the individual sitting next to her. She was a very curious baby. She loves to watch people and just observe. Now next to Romi was Megan Rubin, Romi's seatmate. And she also enjoyed the attention that she was getting from Romi. And so Rubin said, she stared at me so inquisitively. Now what was Megan do and she was crocheting. And once she finished her sweater, she looked at the curious baby and she decided, she looked at her watch. I have just enough time and hopefully just enough yarn to start a new project. And over the next hour, she worked diligently and faithfully on a little beanie for this baby. She hoped she could do it within the hour. And much to her surprise, she was able, just minutes before the plane landed, she finished this beanie. You see, it was something that she loved to do. She loved to surprise strangers with handmade gifts whenever she could. And so Ruben, when she was done, she turns to the couple, she says, here, this is for Romy. And Kelly was amazed. In fact, she posted on her TikTok and it has over 7 million views of Ruben fixing this baby, this beanie for her little... baby. Now, Kelly also says, I will make sure Romy knows for the rest of her life that people can be nice to each other for no reason and that this story is inspired to do so. And she

also added that Rubin and her are trying to stay in touch and hopefully they'll be able to get together. They wanted Rubin to be a part of their life forever. Now, it's beautiful because God loves to bless other people, especially innocent little children. Amen.

Gifts. We're going to talk about gifts a little bit. However, before we go there, I want to go to actually the beginning of the Bible, specifically Genesis 3. We're going to talk about the Adams. And here are some passages that we're going to look at. And if you're online, take a screenshot. If not, well, just let's keep going. And let's continue to journey together through the names of God. Today, we're going to be specifically looking at Jesus as the second Adam. But before that, we need to go to talk about the story of the first original Adam. And starting at verse one of chapter three, it says, Now the serpent was what? More crafty than all of the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, did God really say, you must not eat from any tree in the garden? And the woman replied to the serpent, we may eat from fruit from all the trees in the garden. But God did say, you must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden and you must not touch it or you will what? You will die. You will not certainly die, the serpent said to the woman. For God knows that when you eat in your eyes will be open and you will be like who? Like God, knowing good and evil. And when the woman sat, saw that the fruit from the tree was good for food and what else? Pleasing to the eye and also desirable for gaining wisdom. She took some and ate it. And she also gave some to her husband, who was what? Was with her and he ate it. And then the eyes of both were open and they realized they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as He was walking in the garden, and the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. The Lord called to the man and asked, Where are you? He answered, I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid. And he said, Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from? And then the man said, The woman you put here with me, she gave me some fruit from the tree, And then the Lord God said to the woman, what is this you've done? The woman said, the serpent deceived me and I ate it. So the Lord God said to the serpent, because you have done this, cursed are you of all livestock and all wild animals. You will crawl on your belly and

you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers. He will crush your head and you will strike his heel.

All right, well, many of us are probably very familiar with this story. It's a story of when sin came into, we could see clearly that Adam and Eve were duped in some way by the serpent. Now, did God say they would die? Yes. But what did the serpent try to do? He tried to challenge. He tried to mix a little truth with a little lie. In between, he did say, you're not going to die right away. But we also see Adam and Eve. Where they go to this tree, and as a serpent is talking, tempting. Telling them that it's OK, trying to butter up, making something that could be very potentially bad to look good. Does that sound familiar? Have you ever been duped by somebody? It's not a good feeling, especially when you get scammed. Anybody been scammed on the phone before? I have to admit it, I was once, never again. I'm so, and it's unfortunate that now whenever you answer your phone, if you even answer your phone now, how many of you don't answer your phone when you don't recognize the number? I'm not going to lie, especially if it's my personal phone, right? If they really wanted to, they'll leave a message, and you can call them back. But we see how right off the bat, when they're challenged, what do Adam and Eve do? Especially Adam. He throws Eve under the bus. And yet was he not with her? He was. How did that feel? Hmm. Marital bliss. Not so blissful at that moment. And what caused them to stay? When they saw that the food looked good, it looked pleasing. And when they ate it, they wanted to know more. You mean there's more knowledge that we can have? What was it that caused them to stay? Pride. Now, if you think about it, did they not have all of their needs met? Clearly, did they not have it? They were doing very well. But then to have the chance to think and become like God was just too much. So instead of walking away, they stayed. And the serpent, again, as he was very crafty, mixed in some truth with the false lie. They wanted to be like God, to be as wise, and they didn't want to die.

So, when you've been perhaps maybe scammed, did you feel regret? Absolutely. And what were the consequences? As we can see, Adam and Eve would have to leave the garden. Adam would have to toil the soil. It would be hard labor. Now, earning a living is, it's not bad, but imagine now the difficulty that he experienced. Childbirth would be painful. And even several, a number of years later, what

would happen between their two own sons? Cain would kill Adam. I mean, Abel. But yet we see in this passage that God, does not abandon them because just as it says in verse 15, it says, and I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers, he will crush your head and you will strike his heel. He will crush your head. Who is that in a way referring to? Jesus, who crushes the devil's head? Jesus.

Now, I wanna go to another passage. Let's go to Romans chapter five. Romans chapter five, and we'll start at verse 12. Paul talks about this and he shares a wonderful, a wonderful, I get not a parable, but a wonderful, a wonderful thought. Okay, Romans 5 verse 12. We all there? Okay. All right. Therefore, just as sin entered through one man and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people because how many people sinned? All have sinned. Okay. To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command as did Adam, who is the pattern of the one to come. But the gift is not like the trespass. As we read this next couple of verses, how many times... is the word gift mentioned. Okay. But the gift is not like the trespass. For the many died by the trespass of one man, i.e. first Adam, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many? Nor can the gift of God be compared with the results of one man's sin. The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if by the trespass of one man, death reign through all that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through that one man, Jesus Christ, amen? So many times is the gift mentioned. Oops, sorry. It's mentioned five times. Okay. The gift is mentioned five times. Now we'll talk about that a little bit. Let's just finish up this passage verse 18. Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in the condemnation for all people. So one righteous act justified resulted in justification and life for how many people? All people. For just as through the disobedience of one man. many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of one man that many were made, what? Righteous. And it's not our righteousness, it's God's righteousness that covers us. The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase, but where sin increase, grace, what?

Increased all the more so that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through the righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ. God gives us wonderful, beautiful gift of that of what? Of grace, salvation, mentions five times. Paul is intent on this.

Now, what is a gift? It's something that maybe perhaps you give to somebody with no expectations to be paid back, no strings attached, right? That's a gift. You're not to be compensated back. And as you look back in your life, what was the best gift? that you ever received. In contrast, what was the worst gift that you ever received? Please don't say it out loud. All right. But gifts, let's be honest. We do appreciate when somebody does something nice for us. Right? So for instance, one of my closest of friends, he's like my brother from another mother. You met his wife, Trisha. She's saying the very first day that Lisa and I were here. This last... a while back for my birthday, he gifted me a watch. It's a G-Shock. And if you're ever in the surf community, especially in the 90s, so you know what I'm talking about, Alex, G-Shock was all of the rage. And it still is, it's very important. Most importantly, because they're waterproof, I could go, I didn't have to change my watch when I went surfing. G-Shock is also a subsidy of Casio, so it's not the most expensive watch. It's not an Omega, it's not a Panerale, it's not a Tudor, it's not a... a Rolex. Okay. And, but it's still a, it's a decent, nice watch. But when he gave me the watch, he told me, I didn't just get you this watch. He actually ordered all of the pieces and he put it together. And he knew my thoughts. He knows my, my likes and dislikes. And so while it may not be a Rolex or anything, I value this watch. because number one of who gave it to me and the time that was put in to put it together, right? Something doesn't have to be great and valuable based on price. It can be the thought, the intent of putting the time together and gifting. And so obviously, when I first looked I was like, oh, that's amazing, it's a G-Shock. But when he told me that he put it together, that made it all the more better. And especially because he knew what I would appreciate because of the reputation of G-Shock. So that's just one example. What is one of the most beautiful gifts that you have ever received? What's also one of the most challenging gifts, maybe, that you've ever experienced?

Now, if you read, re-read this from verses 12 all the way through, 21, you'll realize that there's what's called a chiasm. What is a chiasm? It's essentially a sequence of elements of a sentence or a verse or paragraph. Okay, it kind of keeps down

and it keeps going over. It's like an arrow. And for every verse, there's a matching verse at the bottom. Okay, so we can't necessarily put it here on the screen just because it's too big. But let's look through this. Okay.

Verse 12, it says, sin entered through him. And in verse 20, where sin increased, grace increased all the more.

Verse 13, or sorry, 15, by his trespass, the many died. Through his obedience, the many will be made righteous.

He brings condemnation, Jesus brings life to all.

Through Adam, the first Adam, death reigned. Through Jesus, through him, we reign in life. Amen.

He brings condemnation to all, Jesus brings justification.

Through His disobedience, the many were made sinners. Through Him, God's grace overflows. Amen.

So. Paul was a brilliant writer as he contrasted to Adam's, okay? Adam represents a sin-oriented life. Jesus represents a salvation-oriented life. And it's easy to throw the bus, all of the blame on Adam for the life that we live. But if we continue to sin, are we not also perpetuating that? So for all of Adam's fault, Christ saves and goes further than anything that we could ever imagine in saving us. And God is exceptionally more graceful to cover all of the sin of the world.

Let's go to another passage, 1 Corinthians chapter 15 verses 45 and 49. 1

Corinthians 45, 15 verses 45 and 49. All right, we all there? Okay, here's a little bit of more contrast between the two Adams. The first Adam, the first man Adam, verse 45, became a living being, the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. Verse 46, the spiritual didn't come first, but the natural. And after that, the spiritual. The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man is of heaven. As was the earthly man, so are also who are on earth. And as is the heavenly man, so also who are in heaven. just as we have born the image of the earthly man, so we bear the image of the heavenly man. And it's here that Paul recognizes that the first Adam was created in the earth, in the garden, out of dust, and God breathed life into him. And where does Jesus come from? Heaven, the spiritual. Now Jesus, he takes the initiative on our behalf and comes to earth and save us, amen? Jesus comes into this world in the most vulnerable manner as a little baby. Can a baby feed and clothe itself? Can it defend itself? To our human minds in a way like it looks like

Jesus has taken this huge risk and Herod tried as hard as he could to do away with Jesus, right? And yet Jesus of course persevered.

And let's continue to contrast. The first Adam, was created and placed in a very beautiful garden with the responsibility of caring for that garden and everything in it. Right? Again, imagine, we can only imagine how beautiful and wonderful it was. All of his needs were met. Everything was set for Jesus to come into this world into a place that was very challenging, could be potentially dangerous to be vulnerable. Who, if we were Jesus, most of us probably would not want to do that. But yet, as we talked about last week, the Word became what? Flesh and dwelt among us. Amen. A famous writer in our church, in the commentary says, the second Adam was a free moral agent held responsible for his conduct, surrounded by intensely subtle and misleading influences. He was less favorably situated than was the first Adam to lead a sinless life. Yet in the midst of sinners, he resisted every temptation and maintained his innocence. He was sinless, praise the Lord. So we look back, the first Adam, was a natural Adam and gave and through his actions, unfortunately, set a series of events that would negatively affect all of us. But again, God does not leave or abandon us. Through Jesus, the second Adam, he has come into this world to dwell among us. He has saved us. He has redeemed us. God's abundant grace is more than we can fathom. Now question, do you have trouble sometimes accepting gifts? Sometimes, you know, because sometimes maybe the other person that's trying to give you a gift, maybe in the past they've shown that they have ulterior motives. Or even when somebody does something good to you, what do you want to do? You want to pay them back in some way.

Now Tim Keller writes, imagine an aging man whose hearing is failing, but who was in denial about it. He usually complains that it is other people who were mumbling, but finally his wife gets him his hearing tested. And the clear verdict is that he needs hearing aids. But when he sees what they cost, he's taking them back. We can't afford that. But his wife counters and says, buy the best ones and consider it a gift from me. And that sounds nice, but the man realizes that to accept the gift is to admit what? Weakness. It would be like saying there's so much for this. Indeed, I am an aging man who cannot hear what people are telling me. There is no way to receive some gifts without admitting your need. But yet the gospel is the ultimate gift that requires a radical admission. Amen.

So Jesus, the second Adam, has personally come into this world to be amongst God's people. live a life among them, serve them. And ultimately, as we see at the cross to redeem them. And as he did so, he extends the gift of life. Do you want to receive the gift and serve him? To do so will require though, to submit to God. And when we hear the term submit in this day and age, that has such a negative connotation. I should never have to submit to anybody. And yet if we humble ourselves to God, God can do wonderful and beautiful, amazing things in our life to shape, to guide and to mold us. And yet it also recognizes that we are sometimes weak, but yet through Jesus, all things are possible, as Ethan pointed out. The one who will make us strong, who make all things possible. The second Adam desires to want to live with you and to be with you in all aspects of your life, to bring joy, hope and purpose. Will you allow pride? to get in the middle of your decisions? Or are you willing and ready to submit and have your life be changed by becoming a disciple of Jesus?

As we reflect, what is the best gift that you have ever received? How does it compare to the immense gift of grace that Jesus extends to us? I hope and pray that as beautiful and as wonderful a gift that you have maybe personally received, I hope that it never compares to that love and gift of salvation that we have in Jesus, amen.

This week, I want to challenge you. I want you to go back to Isaiah 53 and write down what you think inspired Paul when he wrote Romans 5, okay? Go back to Isaiah 53, think about the things. of what may have inspired Paul to write down in Romans 5. With that, my friends, may the Lord guide you, bless you and lead you.

Father in heaven, thank you for your good and your mercy endures forever, Lord. You are our God in all things we trust you. Forgive us Lord of our shortcomings, continue to lead and guide us. Help us to see all the wonderful, beautiful things you are doing in our lives. And also Lord, be with our hearts. We live in a dangerous, chaotic and challenging world at times. Help us to see clearly, to see you, and may we love others as you want us to love. Help us to love well, in Jesus' name. Everybody said, amen.

Grace and peace, everyone.