

Let's Start Over  
Owning My Past  
January 13, 2019

Truth is we all want to tell a better story about our pasts. The kind where we gloss over our poor choices and our regrettable acts, the kind where we really aren't responsible for situations that turned out badly.

Step up to your **PAST** so you can step out into a **BRIGHT FUTURE**.

King Saul - **1 Samuel 13:11-12** — **11** ...*“When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash, 12 I said, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the favor of the Lord.’ So I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering.”* It wasn't my fault. It was the people...It was you...It was the Philistines...It wasn't my fault.

Aaron - **Exodus 32:22-24** — *“Let not the anger of my lord burn hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. 23 For they said to me, ‘Make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ 24 So I said to them, ‘Let any who have gold take it off.’ So they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf.”* It wasn't my fault. It was the people...It was you Moses...It was these magical waters we're camped by...It wasn't my fault.

Adam & Eve - Let me just give you the short version of the answer to the question, why do you take Adam and Eve seriously? The short answer is because Jesus took them seriously. Jesus believed that Adam and Eve were real people who live in the world that God had created for them.

In the beginning, a relationship with God was so simple. It was so simple in fact that there really was only one rule.

**Genesis 3:8-13** — **8** *And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called*

*to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” 11 He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” 12 The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”*

Owning my Past...

1. Be **HONEST**. Genesis 3:8

*8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.*

When we do something wrong, we hide because of guilt and shame in the most obvious places.

The second step to owning your past is to...

2. Accept your **PART**. Genesis 3:9-12

*9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” 11 He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” 12 The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”*

It wasn't my fault. It was your fault God. You gave me this gal...It was her fault God... It was this great tasting fruit. It wasn't my fault. The first thing people did when they messed up and knew it was to blame someone else.

**Proverbs 28:13** — *13 Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.*

**Psalm 32:1-5** — *1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah 5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah*

3. Quit with the **EXCUSES**. Genesis 3:13

*13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."*

Here's what I want to encourage you to do this morning. First, be honest with God about where you are today! Stop hiding, running, dodging, denying. Just be honest with God. Then second, draw you a circle of blame and make sure that you accept your part of your past. Finally, don't miss God's response to your past—**Romans 5:8** — **Romans 5:8** — **8** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Let's talk about owning our past...

1. Why do we have such a strong tendency to tell a better story about our past than what really happened?
2. What was Adam and Eve's first response when they realized that they had messed up (Genesis 3:8)?
3. What kinds of things do you most often use to hide your faults and failures (Genesis 3:8)?
4. How did God come looking for you (Genesis 3:8)?
5. What was the first emotion mankind felt after sin entered into our lives (Genesis 3:10)?
6. Why do you think God asked Adam about something that He already knew (Genesis 3:11)?
7. What was Adam's first response when he tried to answer God for his sin (Genesis 3:12)?
8. What was Eve's first response when she tried to answer God for her sin (Genesis 3:13)?

9. What are we hoping to accomplish when we blame others for our own failures?
10. What do you need to do to get some clarity about your future?