

**Just Be Honest With God!
Take Off Your Mask!**

John 4:6–7 (NKJV) — 6 Now Jacob’s well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from *His* journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.”

She comes to him wearing a mask. He was waiting for her to come to him. Then he asks her, like he asks all of us, to trust him. Instead we question him.

John 4:9 (NKJV) — 9 Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

God always simply wants to bless us. He didn’t have to create us at all. He wanted someone to express his love to.

John 4:10 (NKJV) — 10 Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”

In his quest to show love to us; We challenge him!

John 4:11–14 (NKJV) — 11 The woman said to Him, “Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? 12 Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?”

God deals with all of us gracefully because he wants to bless us more than we can ever know!

13 Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

John 4:15–17 (NKJV) — 15 The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.”

To get from God what we want requires us to deny ourselves and confess his authority over us.

16 Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”

The moment where truth in confession is required.

17 The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.”

Jesus said to her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’

After further questions she asked for revelation from him. We should too!

John 4:25–26 (NKJV) — 25 The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.” 26 Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am *He*.”

John 4:28–29 (NKJV) — 28 The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, 29 “Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?”

Now she does what he wants us all to do. She goes witnessing and praising him!

I. Summary

A. The woman at the well chose to reveal her true self to Jesus.

1. When she did,

a. he revealed himself to her.

b. He gave her peace and joy in return.

2. This reveals to us the nature of God.

3. In his love, he forgives us when we're open and honest with him regarding our sinfulness.

B. Adam and Eve refused to reveal themselves to God. They chose to hide themselves from God. Their failure caused them, and us, nothing but misery, sickness, pain and ultimately death.

C. They made garments to hide themselves from each other and from the world.

1. They put on a mask!

2. It concealed their true identity and their sinfulness from each other but not from God.

- D. *The only way to true happiness is to confess our sins before God and he will forgive us.
1 John 1:9 (NKJV) — 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
- E. *We must learn to take off our mask before God. We must learn to be honest with him.*

OUR IS A GOD OF UNIMAGINABLE AND EXTREMELY EXCESSIVE LOVE TOWARDS US

- II. Our is a God of Unimaginable and Extremely Excessive Love towards us
 - A. There is nothing that can describe his love towards us. Our finite minds are incapable of understanding how much he loves us.
1 John 4:16 (NKJV) — 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.
 - B. God is a holy God. He can't help himself. That's just what he is. He is perfect!
 - 1. Yet, God by definition is love and he wants to have a relationship with all of us.
 - 2. The problem is, we are not perfect! We are not holy!
 - C. So, how can a perfect and holy God have a relationship with an imperfect and unholy human being? If he does, he becomes unholy and imperfect because he is associating with something that is less than him.
 - 1. Because God had such a great love for us and because he is God, he decided he would declare us perfect also and holy too just like him so that way he could have the relationship he wanted.

2. But he had a problem. He had told man he would die if he sinned against him and man chose to sin anyway.
 - a. How could he keep his word and apply the law and let the man die?
 - b. He decided to let someone else die in man's place.
 - c. Therefore, he sent Jesus.

- D. There was nothing that man did to get God to send Jesus to die for us. He did it just because he loved us. The Scripture says:
 1. John 3:16
 2. God gave his son freely so that he could have a relationship with us.
 - a. Then, all he asked of us was that we would confess the transgressions, the things we did that were unholy, and
 - b. he would then take those things we confessed and assign them as being covered by the death of his son.

- E. We see this exemplified by the story of the **woman at the well**.
 1. She was a woman whose life was so messed up she decided to be honest and tell the truth to this man she met at the well.
 2. As a result of her honesty, Jesus revealed to her what he did not reveal to his disciples.
 3. He revealed he was the Messiah.

III. This is the major problem with us. We are not willing to admit we are wrong when we are.

- A. We as human beings have a problem with **pride**. We do not want to acknowledge whenever we are wrong.

1. What we don't realize is that our pride causes us to exalt ourselves above God. God will not tolerate anyone thinking of themselves as better than him.
1 Samuel 15:23 (NKJV) — 23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.
 - a. **Idolatry - worship of idols**
 - b. Our pride puts us above God!
 2. Pride is the original sin of Lucifer
- B. We will do anything so that we do not have to acknowledge the wrongs we do. We find it so very hard to apologize. This goes back to the beginning.

ADAM AND EVE'S FIRST REACTION WHEN THEY DID WRONG WAS TO PUT ON A MASK OF FIG LEAVES TO HIDE THEIR NAKEDNESS

Ge 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree (*name it*) was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise (*knowing good and evil*), she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

After They Had Eaten

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were **naked**; and they (*reacted to the information of good and evil*) sewed fig leaves together and **made themselves coverings**,
8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife **hid** themselves *from the presence of the LORD* God among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:9 (NKJV) — 9 Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?”

C. Where were they? They were hiding! Their sin made them stupid!

D. We cannot hide from God! We should do like the woman at the well and tell God the truth! She did not try to hide when he asked her,

John 4:15–17 (NKJV) — 15 The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.” 16 Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” 17 The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’

1. God would have forgiven Adam and Eve too if they had confessed their sins also.
 - a. In fact, that's all God ever expects of us. That's all he wants of us.
 - b. He wants us to acknowledge that he is God.
 - c. He wants us to tell him the truth and then allow him to work with us to keep us away from sin.
2. We cannot keep away from sin ourselves. He wants to work with us to perfect us and move us to holiness day by day.
3. We have to understand, WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND, ***WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND!***
 - a. all God wants us to do is to acknowledge him and
 - b. confess we cannot do this without him!

E. Adam and Eve, rather than confess that they had done wrong did everything they could to keep from acknowledging it.

GOD CANNOT TOLERATE OUR LYING ABOUT OUR SINFULNESS

1 John 1:10 (NKJV) — 10 If we say that we have not sinned, *we make Him a liar*, and His word is not in us.

Numbers 23:19 (NKJV) — 19 “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”

1. Adam and Eve put on garments to try to hide their nakedness.
 2. Still today, we put on things to try to hide what you don't want people to know about us.
 - a. We, put on masks too.
 3. A mask hides who we truly are.
- F. Their coverings did not work for them!
1. They still hid from the presence of the Lord. That is not God's will for our lives
 2. They still felt the need to
 - a. Blame somebody else
 - b. Make Excuses
 - c. Deny any responsibility
 3. If they had simply taken off their mask and come before God honestly and truthfully, God who is the same God that forgave the **woman at the well**, would have forgiven Adam and Eve.
- G. By sewing fig leaves together.
1. They hid their identity of male and female, thus opening the door for confusion between the sexes.
 2. They hid the identity of who they truly were. Creatures of God.
 3. They hid their identity by something which came from the world. The fig leaves.

4. They covered themselves. It would be hard for people to know who they truly were.

THEY THOUGHT USING THE MASK OF THE FIG LEAVES WAS GOOD

5. It just made thing worse.
- H. By trying to hide their sin they...
1. Lost the ability to communicate openly with God.
 2. Learned guilt and shame.
 3. They would now be naked and devoid of God's direction for their life because they had rejected it.
 4. They would now be living life without divine guidance, not knowing with any certainty or confidence what their future would be
- I. Adam and Eve reacted according to the knowledge they had received instead of trusting God.
1. *Their reaction after eating to the tree of the knowledge of Good and evil was to put on a mask.*
 2. *Their hiding from God was evil in itself.*
- J. They were led to believe by the serpent they could not trust God.
1. Satan uses that doubt to make us all think God does not love us and does not have a plan for us.
 2. He caused them and us to distrust God. To not believe God's word.
 - a. To not believe God is Love!
 - b. To believe the word of someone other than God.
- K. They lost the identity and purpose God had defined for their lives.
1. More importantly, they lost the reality of the knowledge that God was good!
 2. They now had the knowledge of the world of what was good and evil. But with this great knowledge, we too continue over and over again fail to recognize that God is good!
 3. We think we have to be good to please him. We cannot! There is only one way to be good. Confess our sins!
- L. Adam and Eve thought it best to learn their identity from the world. Not God.

1. They chose not to accept God's will for their lives but to make their own choices.
2. They chose to allow someone other than God to direct how they were to live and to define their identity.

OUR MASK CANNOT HIDE OUR SIN FROM GOD!

Moses said

Numbers 32:23 (NKJV) — 23 But if you do not do so, then take note, **you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.**

3.
 - M. Therefore, they sought to hide what they now saw themselves as; violators of the word of God.
 1. They made a mask out of fig leaves to hide themselves from each other and the world.

IN WEARING MASKS OUT OF FIG LEAVES THEY ALSO HID THEIR NAKEDNESS FROM EACH OTHER AND THE WORLD

N. Behind their mask dwelt their real self. They were one thing to the outside world but behind the mask they knew things were not right.

1. We too are living a lie when we wear masks!
2. We deceive one another with our mask.
 - a. We act like everything is okay but inside we know the truth.
3. When we hide from God, we pay no attention to what he says to us.
 - a. Then we will do crazy evil to other people.
4. Adam and Eve decided they would live without God's divine guidance.
 - a. They chose to be guided by their own internal thoughts.
 - b. Still after all these years, we don't even know what's right for ourselves!
5. Because they refused to be open and truthful with God, they would experience life with more difficulty than necessary.

- a. The woman at the well went away rejoicing!
6. The same could be true with us if we would just obey!

**PEOPLE WHO WEAR MASKS ARE DANGEROUS PEOPLE!
YOU CAN NOT TRUST THEM!**

- O. People who wear masks are dangerous people. They don't accept responsibility for their actions.
 1. **You can't trust them!**
 2. That is why God put them out of the garden. He could not trust them.

- P. You cannot trust people who will wear a mask to hide who they truly are.
 1. A vocal group, "The Undisputed Truth" told a story about people who wear masks. They said:
Smiling faces sometimes pretend to be your friend.
Smiling faces show no traces of the evil that lurks within.
Smiling faces, Smiling Faces, Sometimes they don't tell the truth.

Smiling faces, smiling faces tell lies and I got proof.
The truth is in the eye 'cause the eyes don't lie, amen.
Remember, a smile is just a frown turned upside down my friend.
So, hear me when I'm saying

Smiling faces, Smiling Faces, Sometimes they don't tell the truth.

Smiling faces, smiling faces tell lies and I got proof.

Beware. Beware of the handshake that hides the snake,

I'm tellin' you beware of the pat on the back it just might hold you back.

Jealousy, (Jealousy) misery, (misery) envy.

I tell you you can't see behind

Smiling faces,...

- Q. The concept of choosing fig leaves as coverings reveals to us that we all learned from Adam and Eve to hide our true identity from the world by putting on masks to hide who and what we really are.
1. Every one of us wears a mask today. We don't want people to see us for who we truly are. We don't want others to see us and our nakedness.
 2. No one of us wants to be seen without his mask for fear our nakedness would be exposed.
 3. Without our mask, we would be revealed and people of the world would see us for what and who we truly are.
 - a. Our sins would be exposed. The hidden things that we are ashamed of, people would be aware of.
 - b. The ugliness and filthiness of our lives would be shown to the world.
 - c. Each one of us has things we don't want even our best friends to know. Therefore, we wear our masks!

4. Think of it! ...Think of everyone knowing the things you have done wrong and tried so carefully to conceal. Think of it being revealed to the world!
 - a. Think of everyone recognizing you are not who you truly present yourself to be.
 - b. As Adam and Eve were ashamed, every one of us is still ashamed and don't want the public to know us for who we truly are. Therefore, we wear a mask.
 - c. Throughout our lives sometimes we change it whenever we are exposed.
5. They sewed fig leaves together, a thing of the world to be the face of their identity. We do the same.
6. We hide behind masks putting on faces of what we think is good
 - a. Education
 - b. Intellect
 - c. degrees
 - d. abilities
 - e. personality
 - f. status
7. But behind those masks we find all kinds of evil lurking
 - a. bigotry
 - b. racism
 - c. un-forgiveness
 - d. lying spirits
 - e. stirring up discord among brothers
 - f. pride
 - g. judgemental/condemning attitudes
 - h. backstabbing
 - i. treachery
 - j. deceitfulness

k. murderers

R. So many of us have worn mask for so long we have gotten lost behind the identity that we have presented before the world and lost the identity of what we can become with our confession. **Children of God!**
John 1:12

1. Many of us are confused and we continue to let the world to define our identity becoming more lost and further away from what God's will is for our lives.
2. We are more concerned about what people say about us than what God knows about us. We should offer unclean hands to the Lord because he has said those things that we attempt to hide will one day be brought to the light.

S. Adam and Eve could have chosen to repent. They could have taken off their mask before God and confess their sin but they did not.

1. As a result, all of us use them as an example and live in a state of confusion hidden behind our mask.
2. Constantly hiding our sin.
3. allowing it to separate us from God
4. thereby losing direction and guidance from God so that we may truly become what he intended for us to be.

WE SHOULD BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT US THAN THE WORLD

5. Sadly, many care more of what the world says!
 - a. So they wear a mask!

T. But God did not leave Adam and Eve nor us hopeless. He provided a true covering when they told him the truth!

Genesis 3:21 (NKJV) — 21 Also for Adam and his wife the **LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.**

1. Then they could live without the fear of immediate death. But before they could put on what God made they had to take off what they had on.

a. Their false masks!

2. The same is true with us. We have to take off our mask to allow God to make life easier for us.

3. The Skin tunics represent Christ

U. We also have to confess our mask is false and allow him to provide the proper clothing.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

V. **We need to become like the woman at the well take off our mask and tell God the truth.**