

January 12, 2015

The oldest story in the world describes the origin of the “Blame Game.” If anyone wants to confirm the Divine inspiration of the Book of Genesis then this would be one of those pieces of evidence. This narrative explains how we came to develop a relational behaviour that is repeated every day, everywhere, by every family, society, religion and culture. We are all prone by our carnal nature to shift blame from ourselves to others for things of which we are responsible and guilty.

Two innocent people, a man and a woman live in a perfect relationship with each other and with God. The story explains that God visits them “in the cool of the day” to enjoy their company; but one day, in an instant the relationship between the couple and God is breached when the serpent appears and convinces the woman to disobey God’s specific instructions not to eat the fruit of the “TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL.” She succumbs to the temptation and is seduced by the potential benefits of the forbidden fruit and then shares it with her husband. The outcome is disastrous as both realise they are naked and now fear their daily visit from God.

The inevitable happens; God shows up and they hide in shame at the sudden realisation of their complete nakedness, and when God questions them as to their reason for hiding, the “blame game” begins. Adam excuses himself by saying, “the woman YOU GAVE TO ME, gave it to me.” Blame is shifted first to God and then the woman. Similarly when Eve is confronted she accuses Lucifer saying it was the serpent “who tricked me.” Both avoid responsibility.

There is a Bible principle that states everything reproduces after its own kind and as result of the rebellion of Adam and Eve all mankind knows how to shift blame. I have spent many years involved with the construction industry and they have mastered the skill of blame shifting to the person not on site that cannot defend themselves against the accusation.

We have recently been praying for a man with a brain tumour but his mother complains, “It hasn’t worked yet.” “But we fasted and prayed and God did not heal her,” a husband objected. “Why didn’t God prevent the holocaust, the earthquake, the flood, the avalanche, or any crisis situation?” We humans need someone to blame and often the accusing finger points to God. How we scream our complaints when we are falsely accused and cry “unfair, where is justice?!”

The only sinless person who ever walked the earth was Jesus. He was falsely accused and then murdered in cold blood, but who was to blame? The finger points at us all. Sin was birthed in the first couple and it’s been inherited by every human being who came after them. Mankind is to blame because we have all taken of that Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. How can we bear such blame? We are totally naked before God with no one to blame but ourselves. The sinless Christ was murdered totally naked on a wooden cross before God and man “to take the blame;” the guiltless for the guilty, the pure for the impure, the sinless for the sinner.

Life is unfair, cruel, and unjust, but God is not to blame. We are. It is all the consequence of Adam’s sin but God has provided the remedy by allowing His Son to take total blame for our failures and sins. What we have to do is ask His forgiveness for all our misdeeds and accept responsibility for them because He has mercifully paid the consequences on our behalf, by “assuming the blame.”

Shalom.

*Ron Harris*

