



Adam and Eve Sin

Genesis 3:1-24

"I will love God with all my heart. I will love my neighbor as myself. I will be a light wherever I go." Wyoming could hear the voices of the campers reciting the Camper's Code as he scurried around the backside of the Bible Barn. His heart was racing as he tried to wipe the sticky blueberries from his face and hands. He leaned against the back door of the barn to catch his breath just as Catastrophe pulled it open. Wyoming fell flat on his back in the center of the Bible Barn stage.

"Hey Wyoming!" Catastrophe greeted. **"I was just going to find you, we're ready to..."**

"Catastrophe! Catastrophe! Help! Help! You gots to hide me! GranMammy made this blueberry pie." Wyoming interrupted as he jumped to his feet, his head whipped left and right as he looked wildly around the barn.

"I saw that pie back in the kitchen." Catastrophe said, **"It was the one that had the sign on it that said, 'Do not touch.'"**

"Oh, you saw that sign, did ya?" Wyoming asked, hiding behind Catastrophe.

"Well yes," Catastrophe said with a shrug. **"Who could miss a sign that big?"**

"Ohhh, that's exactly what GranMammy said." Wyoming began wringing his hands in desperation. He noticed a large chunk of blueberry on the back of one of his knuckles. He let out a little yelp and began sucking the rogue fruit from his finger.

"So, did you eat it?" Catastrophe leaned in to see what Wyoming was licking.

"Who me?" Wyoming jumped, hiding his hand behind his back. **"Oh. Um. No."**

"Then what's that blue stuff around your mouth?" Catastrophe drew a circle in the air pointing to the suspicious color circling Wyoming's mouth.

"What, this?" Wyoming stammered, **"It's ah-ah-ah. It's a rash."**

Catastrophe took a swipe at the sticky, blue jelly and licked his own finger, **"A blueberry rash?"**

Wyoming blushed and lied, **"There's a lot of that going around."**

Catastrophe scolded him, **"Now, Wyomin', tell the truth."**

"Well..." Wyoming threw his hands in the air in frustration, "Maybe I had a little slice or three or five. But, everyone had a slice. Fishhead and Aunt Gussie and Uncle Polecat and...besides, GranMammy shouldn't leave pies layin' 'round if'n she don't want peoples to eat them. Anyway, Fishhead smelled it first...and further more..."

"Woah!" Catastrophe interrupted Wyoming's rambling defenses, "Slow down, little brother. You sure got a lot of excuses."

"I got plenty more." Wyoming said, pointing at Catastrophe and then collapsing in a heap onto a dusty hay bale. He put his head in his hands getting sticky blueberry pie filling in his hair, "Oh, why'd I get blamed for eating the pie?"

"Cuz you ate it!" Catastrophe exclaimed.

"Oh yeah...but it wasn't my fault." Wyoming cried as he pulled his hands from his head and looked up at Catastrophe with a blueberry-covered pout.

"But, you saw the sign from GranMammy and you disobeyed what she wrote," Catastrophe said softly, taking pity on his little brother.

"Well...yeah...I guess I did..." Wyoming agreed slowly.

Catastrophe smiled. "I think there's a story in the Bible that can help us understand your predicament." He pulled his trusty slingshot from his back pocked as he instructed the campers to take aim with their imaginary slingshots. Everyone aimed at the barn rafters and fired at the same time. The can clunked to the ground, rolled a bit and settled to a halt at Wyoming's feet.

Wyoming bent down and picked up the can. He retrieved the crumpled paper, trying hard not to further spread his stickiness. "It says, 'Adam and Eve.' Well, we already learned how God made Eve from Adam's rib."

"That's right." Catastrophe nodded. "Then God put Adam and Eve in the garden. He told them they could eat from all of the trees in the garden except for one." Catastrophe turned to the campers and asked, "Who knows what that one tree was called?"

"The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil," a camper in the front row called out.

"That sounds about right," Wyoming agreed as he pointed a sticky finger at the camper. "I remember that story. The snake talked Eve into eating the fruit."

"True, but, let's look at what the Bible says." Catastrophe retrieved the Bible from the grain bin, turned to Genesis 3:6 and read, "When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it."

Wyoming made a tisk, tisk noise of disapproval. "So Adam and Eve didn't obey God. They just did what they wanted!"

"That's right. They chose to disobey God and that is how sin first came into the world. Sin is doing wrong in God's eyes." Catastrophe explained.

"Well, what did God do?" Wyoming asked, grateful the attention was no longer on him.

Catastrophe pointed to the Bible to show Wyoming, "God came to talk to them, but they ran away and hid."

"That's silly." Wyoming laughed. "You can't hide from God!"

"Of course you can't," Catastrophe agreed. "God found Adam and said, 'Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?'"

"Whoa," Wyoming shuttered. "I bet that was scary. What did Adam say?"

"He blamed it all on Eve," Catastrophe said slowly, raising an eyebrow at Wyoming.

"What?!" Wyoming shouted, jumping up from the hay bale.

"Yup!" Catastrophe continued, "And Adam blamed God for giving her to him!"

"Now, that ain't right." Wyoming said, shaking a sticky finger in protest. "What did God have to say about that?"

Catastrophe looked down at the Bible, "He said, 'What is this you have done?' Then the woman said, 'The serpent deceived me, and I ate.'"

"So," Wyoming said shaking his head, "she turned around and blamed the serpent! What a shame! No one wants to take responsibility when they do something wrong."

Catastrophe turned to face Wyoming and asked, "Like when they eat someone else's blueberry pie?"

Wyoming crossed his arms in front of his chest, "Yeah, just like that..." He stopped short as he noticed a few blueberries stuck to the cuff of his plaid shirt. "Oops, I didn't think about it that way."

Catastrophe smiled gently, "God holds each of us responsible for what we do."

Wyoming gulped, "So, did God punish them?"

Catastrophe nodded, "He had to. See, God is perfect and fair, He couldn't allow sin in the Garden of Eden on account of it was a special place, set aside for man to walk with God. God made the rules very clear but Adam and Eve still chose to disobey."

"So, when they disobeyed, they were sent away." Wyoming said sadly.

"Yup." Catastrophe explained further, "God had to banish them from the garden. It was a sad day we call 'The Fall of Man,' on account of mankind sorta fell away from God. It's like we have fallen into a deep pit and the only way to get out is to let Jesus save us."

Wyoming flicked one of the blueberries off his shirt cuff. It bounced and landed just below the stage. He sighed sadly and asked, "Do you think God's mad at us?"

"No," Catastrophe answered. "God loves us, even when we disobey. Just like earthly parents, He has to correct us protect us and teach us right from wrong."

"Only someone who loves us would care enough to teach us such an important lesson." Wyoming agreed.

"Yup," Catastrophe said putting his arms around his little brother. "God even clothed them with animal fur before He sent them out of the garden."

"So God did love them." Wyoming said hopefully. "He made clothing to protect them from the cold and rain? I remember when GranMammy used to make clothes for me. Do you think GranMammy will forgive me?"

"She loves you and I think she'll forgive you." Catastrophe said with a smile. "I mean she ought `er."

"Ought `er! Ought `er!" Wyoming repeated, rubbing his sticky chin. "That reminds me. I was supposed to tell you that the Critter of the Day is the otter!"

"That makes sense!" Catastrophe said as he grabbed his banjo. "God gave the otter a very thick coat to protect it from the temperature in the water."

"Just like the coats that God provided to protect Adam and Eve when they left the Garden of Eden," Wyoming continued. "We definitely ought'er put the otter in our Critter song."

"Let's giv'er our best shot ya'll." Catastrophe began strumming his banjo and called out to the campers, "Stand up everybody! Let's sing our Camp Critter song!"

**I spied the OTTER overhead.
Here is what that OTTER said,
 "When they disobeyed,
 they were sent away!"
Whew! I spied the OTTER
 who followed the OWL
who followed the LOVEBIRDS
 who followed a HOUND DOG
 who followed a CATFISH
 who followed an EAGLE,
 And the EAGLE hollered,
 "Yippee-kigh-yay!
At Camp Venture today!"**