

Bible Devotions: Lock Stock & Barrel
Devotional Reading for Outdoorsmen
(Old Testament)

Genesis 3:21

Coats of Skin

Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

It's not a pretty sight. Some animals are raised, killed, skinned, and butchered. Some animals are hunted, killed, skinned, and butchered. It has been that way for thousands of years. As a means of survival or convenience for life, meat and leather goods find their way into our lives every day.

It must have been a pitiful sight, there in the Garden of Eden: Adam and Eve, naked and confronted by a sovereign God, He Himself clothed in righteousness. Holiness must have overwhelmed the two sinful humans as they cowered before their Creator. Sins laid bare... thoughts exposed... flesh revealed in its weakest, most hideous state.

There was nowhere to run. With great discomfort, the first couple squirmed and fidgeted, hid and winced, bowed and knelt and crying. But the Holy, Heavenly Father cared for them with grace and mercy – confronting them with their sins, pronouncing judgment, and substituting innocent creatures for the couple's deserved death.

Imagine the scene. Because of a mere act of disobedience, two beautiful people have reduced themselves to the dirt from which they came (Genesis 3:19). Like specks of dust transcended by the total mass of the universe, they now appear before the King of kings and Lord of lords. The only sounds are those of innocent creatures purring and bleating, yipping and chirping. By now, the very stones have cried out in praise to the Lord since no man is able or willing to do so (Luke 19:40).

Suddenly, there's a pronouncement of judgment. All things on earth become quiet, anticipating the fierce anger of the Holy One to extinguish existence. But instead, Love comes down. Two animals, innocent bystanders, are heard making their death cry. Adam and Eve weep as they witness the gruesome act of slaughter. Skins are stripped from the carcasses. The human couple is sickened by the horribleness of death so unknown to them. When will it stop?

Without warning, the animal skins are wrapped around their naked bodies. The man and woman are terrified. Shocked. The couple cries, "Oh Father, no! Make it go away! Make it stop! Take it away! Please! Take it away!"

The Father replies, "I AM."

Terror is replaced with peace. The Creator has repaired the brokenness, for now. Every created thing sighs in relief and begins a long wait (Romans 8:19). The sacrifice of innocent blood was enough – no, necessary – for sin to be covered.

Only innocent blood would do. So Jesus came... and bled... and died. He is our only hope. Our sinful condition was so well known to the Creator that our Savior was *slain from the foundation of the world* (Revelation 13:8). The answer to the question, "When will it stop?" was known even then: When the Lamb's blood is spilt. Only He can wash us from our sins in His own blood (Revelation 1:5). Oh, how much He loves us! Oh, how much He wants us!

We can be thankful for meat and clothing from innocent animals. But we must be eternally thankful for the meat of the Word and clothing of righteousness from an innocent, perfect Man. May our outdoor experiences always remind us of God's salvation and the blood of the Lamb that forever covers the sins of all who confess Jesus is Lord.

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Bible Devotions: Hook Line & Sinker (study guide)

Genesis 3:21
Coats of Skin

HOOK

1. What is the largest leather garment you own? If none, what would you like to have?

2. What is your family's dress code for swimwear when you swim in public places?

3. Describe how an animal is slaughtered for food or leather, from death to final product.

LINE

Suddenly, there's a pronouncement of judgment. Two animals, innocent bystanders, are heard making their death cry. Adam and Eve weep as they witness the gruesome act of slaughter. Skins are stripped from the carcasses. The human couple is sickened by the horribleness of death so unknown to them.

Without warning, the animal skins are wrapped around their naked bodies. The man and woman are terrified. Shocked. Terror is replaced with peace. The Creator has repaired the brokenness, for now. Every created thing sighs in relief. The sacrifice of innocent blood was enough for sin to be covered.

So Jesus came and bled and died. He is our only hope. Our sinful condition was so well known to the Creator that our Savior was slain from the foundation of the world. The answer to question, "When will it stop?" was known even then: When the Lamb's blood is spilt.

Only Jesus can wash us from our sins in His own blood.

What is the current American cultural view toward public nudity? What do you believe the Bible says about this? Why is there a difference (if you've noted any)?

Explain what you think about the blood of Jesus. In your view, why does His blood cover sin?

SINKER

Take a few minutes to write your thoughts on this devotional. Reflect on your own experiences.

Key words: animal skins sin blood of Jesus
