

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

Genesis 3:7-8

Camouflage

*Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. 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.*

As a child, I remember the only camouflage popular with hunters was the standard army woodland pattern. Today, a quick look through a sporting goods catalogue tells quite a different story. There are literally dozens of patterns now with applications in clothing, boots, shoes, holsters, gun cases, gun stocks – the entire gun – gloves, hats, watch bands, four-wheelers, coolers, computer mouse pads, pens, and sunglasses. I've seen such things as buttons, boot laces, and Bibles in full camo.

When camouflage is used effectively, a hunter's success rate dramatically increases, as do the strange events that might take place...

One morning during turkey season, I spotted a bearded turkey watching my every move from the middle of a field. To my advantage, I was dressed in full camo and was walking slowly in a bent-over position – an open-terrain stalking technique which I use during the deer season.

I stopped all hunched over and watched the turkey from about 100 yards. Eventually, the bird went back to its business of foraging in the tall grass. I moved slowly to a tree line as the turkey continued to feed seemingly unalarmed by my presence, then worked myself into a standing position with my shotgun at my shoulder. After a few soft calls, to my surprise the turkey immediately trotted into range. By then I was fully concealed in the tree line. At thirty yards, I fired my old Winchester Model 12 16 gauge and the turkey flipped over. I had just harvested my first turkey... a bearded hen!

I had the turkey full-body mounted. The nine inch crooked beard is a strange sight on the bird. My hunting friends still make fun of me about it.

There is something about hiding from our actions that makes sin attractive. Perhaps it's the challenge or the conquest of getting away with something. Adam and Eve had the same conflict. After disobeying God's command to not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, the couple sewed fig leaves together in order to cover their newfound nakedness. Clothed in their camouflage suits, they tried to hide in the garden when God came calling.

Note how Adam and Eve tried to hide behind camouflage, then hide behind trees, then hide behind excuses.

Nothing can hide us from the presence of God. We are at all times exposed to His sight. If we do wrong, good actions cannot conceal the fallenness. If we speak badly, good words cannot cover the evilness. If we fail to do good when we know we should do it, idleness and ignorance cannot repeal the omission (James 4:17). Only full, sincere repentance of sin can bring forgiveness. Only then God's grace cover the sin that is ever so often our choice of camouflage.

**Bible Devotions: Hook Line & Sinker (study guide)**

Genesis 3:7-8  
Camouflage

HOOK

1. What is your favorite camouflage pattern?

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2. Under what conditions are the following patterns used: woodland, cattail, desert, full white?

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3. List all the camouflaged items you own and the type of pattern.

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LINE

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How does the world try to condone sin or excuse away living in sin? As a believer witnessing to lost people, how do you respond when others try to hide from God?

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Explain how you share God's plan of salvation. Where does repentance fit in? How do you reassure, affirm, and/or confirm someone's salvation experience?

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SINKER

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

Key words: camouflage                      hide                      forgiveness

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