

## Rescue from One Adam Two

☛ **Death by the first Adam (vv.12-14)**

✚ **Life in the second “Adam” (vv.15-17)**

☛ **Radio the rescue (vv.18-20)**

In the name of Jesus, our Second Adam, dear fellow redeemed:

Have you ever heard a rock band’s rendition of “Adam’s Apple”? Here are a few lines:

*Back when Cain was able way before the stable lightning struck right down from the sky...*

*...even Eve in Eden voices tried deceivin’ with lies that showed the lady the way at first she stopped turned and tried to walk away man he was believer lady was deceiver...*

*...evil came like rainin’ who knows who’s to blamin’ something tried to lay her to waste and all she want and need was just a little taste... [Aerosmith, “Adam’s Apple,” Pandora’s Box (CD 2), 1998]*

Whether proud theologians or rockin’ stars, two things are always missing when men gets hold of God’s truth. Unfortunately, these are the two main teachings of the Bible. First the Law in all its severity to tell us the problem, then the Gospel in all its sweetness where God gives His solution to take by faith.

This is not Hollywood entertainment. It’s not the dry monotone of Sgt. Friday’s *Dragnet*, or *Car 54, Where are You?* It’s far more serious like one of my old favorites, *One Adam, Twelve*. Let’s tune in to what we’ll call **Rescue from One Adam Two**. The opening scenes condemn us all to...

☛ **Death by the first Adam (vv.12-14)**

You can tell Aerosmith would agree with most theologians, insisting the Bible isn’t fair. How could one man’s sin condemn us all? Besides, Adam didn’t sin first; Eve did. Aerosmith thinks she tried to get away, so who could be “blamin’” her for wanting a taste or Adam for “believin’”? But this is like complaining “Unfair” that my friends and I went in the ditch with a classmate who refused to slow down on glare ice. Fortunately, it was a friendly ditch from which we could push the car. Another pastor’s son riding with a carload of collegiates was the only one wearing a seatbelt. How fair is it that after the rollover, they all walked away, and he is a quadriplegic to this day? Can barely use a few fingers.

Lutheran hymn writer Spengler had it right: *All mankind fell in Adam's fall; One common sin infects us all. From one to all the curse descends, And over all God's wrath impends.* This truth we confess with all Bible-believers. But are we just paying lip-service? If we really believe the doctrine of original sin, would we ever ask, “Why me?” in suffering? Would we be shocked when someone hurts us, or would we expect sin from all our fellow sinners? God warned Adam and Eve. Eve was deceived, but Adam knew what he was doing. He was like the captain of the *Titanic* blowing a huge hole in the hull below the waterline, never considering how all humanity on the ship was doomed because of him.

Only Adam broke God’s command not to eat the forbidden fruit. But you know how you can tell all his descendants inherited his sin-dead nature? They all died, except one man named Enoch who “walked with God.” (Genesis 5:24) Ancient people did not die for breaking the Ten Commandments because God did not give them to Moses (1500 B.C.) until about 3,000 years after Creation. But death was king anyway, feeding on all the bodies and souls of Adam’s descendants. And the harsh reality of God’s Law is that none of us on our own could ever escape condemnation from Adam’s sin. God’s Ten Commandments only stir up the evil desires in us and make us sin all the more because what’s the use? If every single sin could damn me, and God declared me sinful from conception (Psalm 51:5), I’m doomed – womb to the tomb. Why not go for the gusto while I can? Except that God offers us living hope for....

## ✠ **Life in the second “Adam” (vv.15-17)**

In a hardcore contrast the death-dealing **One Adam** was a proto-type of the life-giving **Adam Two**. If busy Minnesotans could run back to the bridge and risk their own lives to rescue everyone they could from fallen cars, imagine how Jesus felt. He saw Adam’s fall from eternity, realized there was no one to help, so He volunteered to rescue every man, woman and child. (Isaiah 59:15-17) Christ could see Captain Adam sailing hard to destruction. And like a police officer knowing a crash is imminent, our Lord Christ raced to the scene of the accident. The entire Old Testament records Christ’s determined goal of the cross and His unsurpassed zeal to get us all out alive. Multitudes of humanity were headed down with the ship. Christ Jesus came to raise that ship from the bottom of hell and give new life to all. Not one of us deserved it. But **Rescue** came **from One Adam Two** to give us **Life in the second “Adam.”**

From the lesser to the greater... *“The free gift is not at all like the failure. Since multitudes died as the result of one [Adam’s] failure,” God’s grace and the gracious gift of the One Man, Jesus Christ, have overflowed even more on the multitudes.*” If the home of humanity was burning down with all of us in the fire, think how soothing a massive downpour would be to douse the flames and cool us off. God’s forgiveness in Christ overflows from the cross on all the rebellious sons and daughters of Adam.

But that’s not all! The effect was different in both cases. One sinful failure of Adam brought hellfire condemnation to all of us. But after all our human failures from cradle to the grave, God gave us the Gift of His Son to die in our place and pay our penalty under God’s justice. And God said, “Satisfied!” when He raised Him from the dead. We are justified by faith, declared, “Not guilty!” by the Almighty Judge. You don’t have to wait. *“It is finished!”* (John 19:30) Jesus said. Now look how good we have it! *“If death ruled through one man as a result of [Adam’s] failure, we who have received God’s overflowing grace and His gift of righteousness will live and rule even more through the One Man, Jesus Christ.”* What Adam and Christ did affected everyone, but the effects are absolutely different. Adam’s sin took us all down; Christ’s death on the cross lifts us all up. Now it’s time to...

## 📻 **Radio the rescue (vv.18-20)**

Maybe you read about one of the families separated after their van landed upside down sixty feet below where the bridge used to be. It was a wonder anyone got out alive. Rescuers put them all on ambulances headed for who knows where? It took hours of exceptional volunteer detective work to get the father and mother from two different hospitals reunited with their daughters who didn’t realize they were only a few floors away from their mother. Imagine if someone knew, but did not tell them.

We are so blessed in emergencies to have satellite radios in so many hands. Cell phones may find their way into your dreams – trying to dial, but can’t, missing reception when you need it. You and I are God’s cell phones, His **Radio** to proclaim to all the fallen of Adam that **the rescue** is complete: *“So therefore, as through one failure, condemnation came to all people, so also through one righteous [declaration], justification [acquittal] which brings life came to all people. <sup>19</sup> For in the same way, as through the disobedience of one man [Adam], multitudes were proclaimed to be sinful, so also through the obedience of the One Man [Christ], multitudes will be proclaimed righteous.”*

You may be covered with dust from a difficult life, or battered and bruised from a hard fall. But when God’s Son our Savior gets His hands on you to lift you up and pour into your parched lips the living water of Word and sacraments, it’s so sweet! More power for patience at home, kindness at work, work at school, and studying God’s Word of grace. It’s on right now! **Rescue from One Adam Two.**

*But Christ, the second Adam, came To bear our sin and woe and shame,  
To be our life, our light, our way, Our only hope, our only stay. (CW 378)*

And it won’t say, “The End,” at the end but, “Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end! Amen and Amen.”