

The One Man Jesus

There's no question about it. It is easier for me to see and believe in that through one man all human beings have sinned and die. I don't know anyone, personally, who has argued against that yet. It is a lot harder for me to see and believe the Good News that because of another Man, Jesus Christ, the Son of God incarnate, all are justified and will have life.

And yet, that is one of the first thoughts we are encouraged to have at this time of Lent through the lectionary passage found in Romans 5:12-19. Even as the traditional Lent season comes upon us for 40 days we are encouraged to remember through Lent the 40 days of temptation in which Jesus literally has undone the work of Adam. In our broken humanity Jesus obeyed His Father willfully and completely, and resisted our greatest temptations and sin vicariously, in the flesh, and on our behalf.

In Paul's words to the Romans, to believe in Adam is to believe in a type, a mere shadow of the truth (Rom. 5:14.) To believe in Jesus is to believe in the Reality, the Truth of human life (Rom. 5:15.)

- The effect of Adam, the shadow, is condemnation (Rom. 5:16.) The effect of Jesus, the Reality, is justification (Rom. 5:16.)
- Through Adam's trespass death exercised dominion (Rom. 5:17.) Through Jesus' righteousness (unwavering right Relationship to God and Man) Life exercises dominion (Rom. 5:17.)
- By the one man's disobedience many were made sinners. (Many? Didn't the translator mean "all"? Who, besides Jesus hasn't sinned and fallen short of God's glory? Rom. 5:19.) By the one man's obedience many will be made righteous. (Many? Didn't the translator mean "all"? Jesus is NOT a smaller player in the scheme of things than Adam, and if Adam affected all, it is impossible to think of Jesus affecting less than all, seeing that He is the One in, through, by and for whom all things are created and sustained! Col. 1:15-17)

Here are two additional resources I have found helpful in thinking this subject through, and that you may find helpful too: *Jesus and the Undoing of Adam* by Dr. Baxter Kruger and *The Foolishness of Preaching (Proclaiming the Gospel against the Wisdom of the World)* by Robert Capon.

~ Tim Brassell