

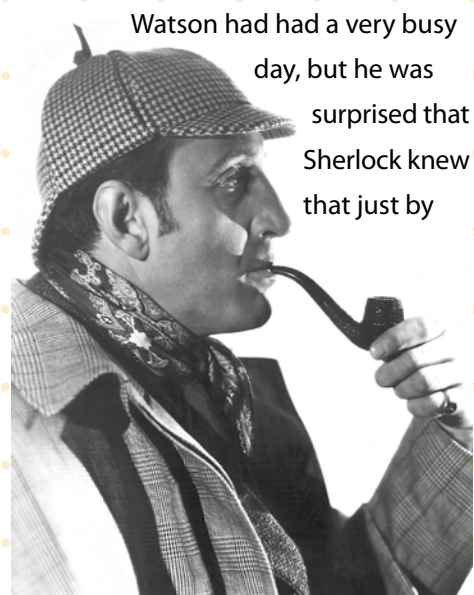
Chapter 5:

THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE VERY FIRST CLOTHES



One thing about detectives is that they can deduce (figure out) things and other people wonder how in the world they could know that. Sherlock Holmes was good at this (Sherlock was not a real person, but a famous detective in books). There are many stories written about all the impossible cases he was able to solve mostly just by thinking. He was always amazing his assistant Watson with the things he was able to figure out about a person just by looking at them.

One story tells about a time when Sherlock came to visit Watson at his home very late one night. As they sat talking in front of the fireplace, Sherlock looked at Watson and said, "I see you have had a busy day at work today."



Watson had had a very busy day, but he was surprised that Sherlock knew that just by

looking at him. How in the world could he tell? So he asked him. Sherlock laughed and told him it was because his boots were clean. Now what did

clean boots have to do with anything? But you see, Sherlock knew that Watson usually walked home from work which got his boots dirty from walking through dusty streets. However, if he was especially busy and had to work later than normal, then he took a cab home and his boots stayed clean.

Watson was impressed and cried out "Excellent!" But Sherlock just replied, "Elementary!" He went on to say that it was very easy when you notice details and think about what those details mean.

Now I am not Sherlock Holmes, but I can deduce something about you, something that is true of you this very minute...unless maybe you are the type that likes to read books in the bath, but I very much doubt that you are...

I deduce that: You are wearing clothes right now.



I'm right, aren't I? I can tell by the surprised look on your face that I've deduced correctly. See—they don't call me Detective Heather for nothing. But it's actually quite elementary. Since everyone wears clothes, it is not hard to figure out that you are wearing clothes. But the best detectives aren't content just to know the facts, they want to know what the facts mean, they want to know why something has happened or not happened.

And wearing clothes must mean something important because everyone does it.

Whether you are from America or Europe or Africa, whether you are old or young, whether you are a boy or a girl, whether you are shy or out-

going, everyone wears clothes. I mean, EVERYONE. That's an important clue. The clothes may look different, they may wear a lot or just a very little but everyone wears something. In fact, by the end of this chapter I'm going to help you make a surprising deduction: we're going to figure out what color the first clothes in the whole world were. I wasn't there, no one that I know of has ever said what color they were, but you and I are going to figure it out together, because we're detectives and that's what detectives do. In fact, put on your thinking cap, my dear Watson, and you may just figure it out before I tell you.

Another important clue about clothes is that no one ever forgets to do it. Now it is really easy to forget things, even important things like brushing





Adam & Eve stained-glass window



Figs



Fig leaves



*Animals
are not
embarrassed
to go around
naked. Only
people are.*

But here is another interesting clue: animals never wear clothes. I feel pretty sure there has never been a single animal in the history of the world who decided on its own that it needed to wear clothes. If you see a dog wearing a sweater you know that its owner put the sweater on. It's not something that dogs naturally do. If you were out in the jungle and saw a tiger wearing a dress you would wonder which circus it had belonged to and how it had escaped. We know it is very unnatural. It looks strange. Animals are not embarrassed to go around naked. Only people are.



The Bible gives us another important clue: people did not always wear clothes. When God first made Adam and Eve, He didn't make any clothes for them. He made everything that needed to be made in seven days: the sun, moon, plants, animals, people, but no



clothes. And remember that God looked at it and said that it was good. He didn't come back on the eighth day and say, now it's time to make you two clothes. Nakedness was good. Nakedness was best. Nakedness was perfect.

Adam and Eve spent the first part of their lives walking around Eden completely naked and feeling completely comfortable and unembarrassed about it. They would have thought it was as silly to wear clothes as your pet would. If we put you in a time machine and took you back to the Garden of Eden and they saw you wearing whatever you are wearing now, Adam and Eve would have wondered what circus you had escaped from!

So what happened to change all this? How did something that seemed so strange to Adam and Eve in the beginning suddenly become so important to them and everyone after them? The Bible tells us in Genesis 3. I'll give you a few hints:

It begins with an S.

It has three letters.

It is the ugliest word in the whole world.

Yes, it was because of sin. God had told them not to eat the fruit of one of the trees in the garden but they disobeyed. Before they had been perfect, but now they were sinners. And so things weren't the same anymore. If you have heard of Alice in

Wonderland, it was a little like Alice falling through the rabbit hole: Adam and Eve found themselves in a very different world from the one that they had known. Some things that had made sense in the old world didn't make sense anymore, and some things that made sense in the new world would have been complete nonsense in the old world. Sin changed everything in a way that is hard to imagine, harder even than imagining talking caterpillars and mushroom crumbs that make you smaller and bigger.

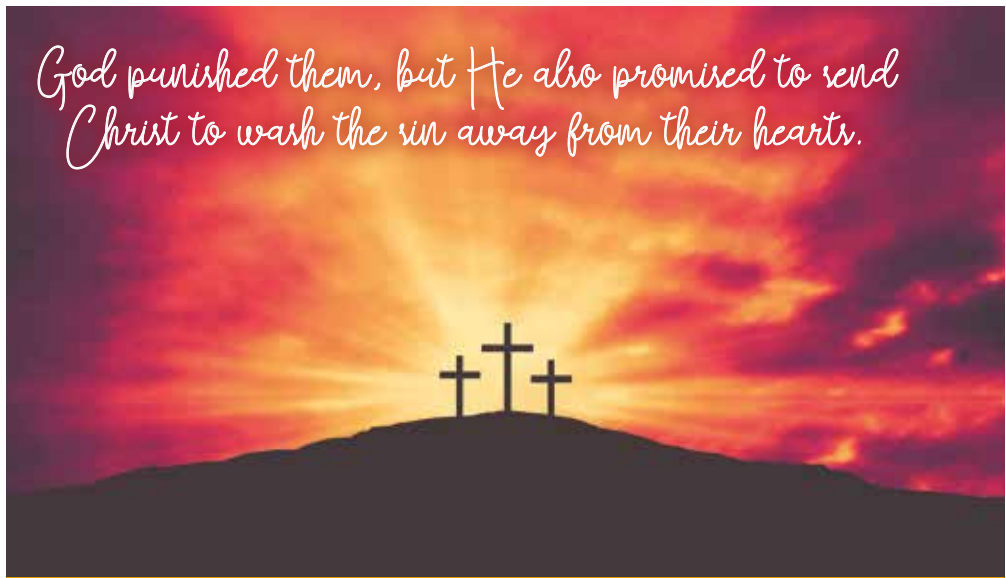
The Bible says that as soon as they ate the fruit,

"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."

—Genesis 3:7

Adam and Eve knew they were no longer good and pleasing in God's sight. The main problem was in their hearts, but they did what they could to cover their bodies as if that would hide their sin. They sewed together some fig leaves to make something like a little skirt. Figs are a fruit that grows on trees and the leaves of this tree are some of the biggest leaves there are. Maybe at first Adam and Eve felt better now that they were wearing leaf skirts but when God came, they realized that it was not enough to make them good and pleasing in His sight, so they hid.



God punished them, but He also promised to send Christ to wash the sin away from their hearts. God also made them better clothes. Adam and Eve had made their clothes out of fig leaves which didn't hurt anyone, but God made their clothes out of animal skins and that cost an animal its life. Before this, no animal had ever died. It had been a perfect world, where nothing ever died. People, animals, flowers, everything lived forever in Eden. But because of sin changing the world, something had to die to cover the shame of Adam and Eve's nakedness.

Clothes covered it, but they didn't fix it. Many years later Jesus Christ came and died so that everyone who trusts in Him will have the badness of their hearts covered with his goodness.

This is what it means to be clothed in Christ's righteousness. His goodness is like a white robe for our hearts.

Clothes are good but they remind us that something bad happened. It is like a hospital. Hospitals are good, but they also remind us that bad things happen to people. So though it is good to wear clothes, it reminds us of

something bad. It reminds us that our hearts are sick and need to be made better. It reminds us that our hearts are naked and need to have clothes on them. Every time we get dressed in the morning, we should remember that we need to be dressed in Christ's righteousness.

Now, Watson, have you figured out what color the first clothes were yet? Think through the clues we know:

Clue #1:

We know Adam and Eve were the first people in the world.

Clue #2:

We know they made their first set of clothes.

Clue #3:

We know they used fig leaves to make their clothes.



Think it through and I bet you can figure it out— because it really is elementary, my dear Watson.

(The answer is written upside down on the bottom of this page.)



A CLUE
To chew on

"...you say, 'I am rich...and have need of nothing' -and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-I counsel you to buy from Me...white garments [clothes], that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed ..."

—Revelation 3:17-18

People don't go to a hospital if they think they are healthy. Sometimes people don't want to admit they are sick because they hate doctors. Or they know they are sick, but try to cure themselves because if they go to the hospital, they'll have to give up doing what they want to do, eating what they want and wearing what they want. So they keep struggling on even as they get sicker and sicker. The best hospital in the world may be right next door, but it can't help people if they won't go to it.

Jesus is like that hospital. And the people Jesus was speaking to in Revelation 3 were like those sick people. They didn't think they needed

Him. They didn't feel the need for the white robe of Jesus' goodness because they thought they were fully clothed in their own

goodness. Or maybe they thought they could use a little extra righteousness, but they didn't realize that they were completely naked. Jesus will give His righteousness to anyone who trusts Him, but most people think they are pretty good on their own so they don't come to Jesus.

Have you ever understood that you are completely naked of true goodness? I mean, as naked as a newborn baby? Maybe you have thought you just needed a pair of socks or a hat of goodness from Jesus but that you had the rest covered. But that's a lie. It is worse than the sneaky lie, it is a deadly lie. It is the lie that has taken more people to hell than any other. You will never come to Jesus for real until you realize that you are naked of anything good. Ask God to show you how naked you are.





Mysterious ME

From what you have read in the curious case of the very first clothes, why not use this page to write or draw something about yourself

A large, blank white rectangular area intended for writing or drawing.