

THE CENTRE- POINT

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June 23, 2013

Sermon in a sentence: Let us choose to make Jesus the absolute centre point of our existence.

Scriptures: Gen. 2:4-9, 15-17; Gen. 3:1-7; Deut. 30:15-20

Gen. 2:4-9, 15-17 NASB This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven. 5 Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground. 6 But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground. 7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. 8 The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. 9 Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. 16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

Gen. 3:1-7 NASB Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" 2 The woman said to the serpent, " From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat

from it or touch it, or you will die.” 4 The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! 5 “For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 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 loin coverings.

Deut. 30:15-20 NASB “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity; 16 in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it. 17 “But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, 18 I declare to you today that you shall surely perish. You will not prolong *your* days in the land where you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess it. 19 “ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, 20 by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

- We have two clear, stark choices before us. The Tree of Life or the ‘Tree of Death’. Both of these possibilities are front and centre before our eyes: “in the midst”, so to speak. Sin or righteousness are before us every day. Obedience or rebellion. Light or darkness. Condemnation or salvation.

- **Our obedience to God and His laws must come from a heart of willing desire to please Him.**
- **Spiritual and physical death are brought on by humanity's prideful desire to go their own way and do their own thing.**
- **Eve twisted God's commandment, making it seem more restrictive than it actually was. Thus, it seemed unreasonable to have to obey it (Gen:3:3).**
- **Yet, God's commandments are not "grievous" (1 Jn. 5:3). His demand for our sacrificial service is "reasonable" (Rom. 12:1)**
- **God tells us to choose life (Deut. 30:19). He wants none to perish.**