

THE CASE OF THE TWO TREES

It is God’s intention to have an intimate relationship and divine fellowship with mankind, and to give us free access to the tree of life.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ From the beginning, the Bible tells us that it was God who created, made, and spoke things into existence. The fruits, herbs, and vegetables we love so much are among the things God created, and the Bible tells us they were pleasant to the sight and good for food.
- ❖ We are also told that the tree of life—which represents the source of life—and the tree of knowledge of good and evil—which represents the source of death—were also in the garden. And how man would live and walk depended entirely on his choice between the two trees.
- ❖ In Genesis 3, we have three types of characters at play: God, Man, and Satan. Man, created by God in innocence, had a choice—God gave that to him. He could choose life, which represented God, or he could choose death, which represented Satan.
- ❖ These two fruit trees were of no special interest to Adam and Eve. They went about living their innocent lives, with God teaching them everything they knew...until.
- ❖ The Bible tells us that the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field that the Lord had made. And Eve did not know Satan, but she knew the serpent. She and Adam had been walking in Eden with the serpent for a long time and they probably had many conversations with one another.
- ❖ But then there came a time when the serpent beckoned to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and, instead of passing by as they had done countless times before, they stopped, and talked about the tree, the fruit, and what God had said.
- ❖ Though Adam and Eve knew God in an intimate way like no other creation did, the desire to have knowledge like God pulled at Eve’s heart. She was reeled in with the serpent’s bait and both she and Adam ate the fruit of the tree.
- ❖ Up to that point, Adam and Eve only knew what was good. But after eating the fruit, they discovered the opposite of what they already knew. Their eyes were opened—their mental and spiritual faculties now had the knowledge of good and evil—and this deliberate disobedience to God caused a loss of innocence and divine companionship with God.
- ❖ The fact that there’s a tree of knowledge of good and evil lets us know that evil was already in play because of the downfall of Satan. So, why didn’t the enemy tempt the serpent to eat the fruit? Because man is the image-bearer of God and Satan wanted nothing more than to destroy God’s masterpiece, mankind.
- ❖ This fruit affects how we think, feel, and what we do. It gives us a desire for things that are not according to biblical principles, and that is why the Bible speaks about the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life (1 John 2:16).

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Genesis 1:11, 29-31; 2:7-9, 15-17; 3:1-7

- ❖ If we don’t let go of those things that leave us feeling empty, dirty, ashamed, or guilty before God, we are heading to eternal death.
- ❖ But thanks be to God who did not leave us without hope (see Genesis 3:15). God wanted and still desires a relationship with mankind that is pure and holy. (See Galatians 4:4-7; Matthew 1:21-23.)
- ❖ The “seed of the woman” had its ultimate fulfilment in Jesus Christ. The enemy thought he had won when he bruised the seed of the woman, that is, when Christ was crucified. But bruising represents something minor or temporary. And, indeed, it was as temporary as three days. Christ rose triumphant from the grave and because He lives, we can live also.
- ❖ Jesus said He did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. God is offering us a second chance to partake of the tree of life. To do that, we must believe that Jesus Christ came and died for our sins. We must repent of our sins and allow God to fill us with His Holy Spirit. To show that outward manifestation of our faith in Christ Jesus, we must be baptized according to the Scriptures.
- ❖ The entire Bible is based on the premise of two trees: the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Simply put, the tree of life and the tree of death. Jesus said he came that we may have life and have life to the fullest (John 10:10). You cannot have abundant life if you are eating from the tree of death.
- ❖ Man could not continue to eat from the tree of life in the garden of Eden. But all hope is not gone. We have a second chance to life.
- ❖ God has made provision for us. Do not miss the opportunity to partake of the Tree of Life, of living an abundant life with Jesus Christ our Lord and having intimate divine fellowship with God our Maker.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Read Romans 8:5-7. What does it mean to be “carnally minded” and “spiritually minded”? What can a person do to strengthen one “mind” over the other? Provide scriptural references.
2. In John 15:5, Jesus says, “He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit....” Read Galatians 5:22-23. How can we demonstrate these various “fruits” in everyday life?

PRAYER TIME

Lord, You have made the way for new life and have paved the way for eternal life. Help me to walk in Your way, in Your truth and Your life.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE
WORD

Start-up: Have you ever had a favourite food that suddenly made you sick? What caused the sickness and were you ever able to eat that food again?