

Be Aware Of Satan's Temptation

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)

We will begin this topic from the famous story of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. Almost all the people know the story despite the various cultural and religious differences and background. It is a true story and its details are written in the Bible. Simply, it first tells us about how God created everything in heaven and on earth; and finally about how God created the man according to His image, from the beauty of God, the creator. God took the man to the garden of Eden to live and to reign over all His creation. Beside the man, Adam, God created Eve and they lived together as a couple or family in the paradise, the garden full of God's creation so that they lack nothing but live in abundance. ***“And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out in of the ground trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.” (Genesis 2:9, 16)***

Nowadays, we may have noticed how painters or artists have been illustrating this story on a drawing or pictures. In most illustrations we find that Adam and Eve are near or under what is called the forbidden tree or the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The tree is much on focus either drawn like an apple tree with beautiful red fruits and occupying most of the space in the picture. While the other plants and trees in the garden remain just a background with minor illustration effects and less emphasis. Such pictures depict the attitude of the man and the woman in the garden of Eden.

Adam and Eve were in the presence of God and all God's creation. But in the midst of the paradise, their eyes were focused on the tree of knowledge of good and evil which God had told them not to eat. They were concerned with the tree and failed to recognize all the other beautiful creation that God had given to them:

1. They failed to see the garden is full of trees good for food: They failed to feel the love of God. They failed to realize that all what God has given them is more than enough for them as source of food and living. They failed to recognize their good job; that is to rule over the garden and all God's creation. They forgot the natural shelter that they are in paradise. Adam and Eve ended up to a miserable life because they focused on one tree that they were not allowed to eat. They forgot the other millions of trees and fruits available around them that they could freely reach and eat. They were dragged by man's concept, ***“that the problem is the thing we lack and what we don't have,”*** without giving credit to what we already have.

2. They failed to appreciate other trees and plants in the garden: They failed to recognize the beauty of the whole creation of God. Adam and Eve did not appreciate the trees and fruits that they were allowed to eat. But in urgency they saw the tree of the knowledge of good and evil pleasing to the eye. They failed to appreciate the fruit of trees that they ate.

Instead, they talked about the fruit that they are not allowed to eat. They were dragged and driven by the sinful idea that, ***“every prohibited item is delicious and every forbidden object is desired.”***

3. They failed to focus on the tree of life: Adam and Eve were walking in the midst of the garden but they failed to see the tree of life. When the serpent implanted doubts in their minds, they quickly fall. They failed to recognize the truth because their eyes and mind were wandering outside or beyond what they see and reach. In the middle of the garden there was also the tree of life but they were focused to the tree of knowledge of good and evil which they thought desirable for gaining wisdom. God gave them the tree of life freely and just beside them they did not recognize it. They were dragged that by the idea that ***“the forbidden tree gives answer to their question,”*** and they disrespected the Word and command of God.

To ponder on the above condition, the message does not only speak about Adam and Eve, but it is applicable for you and me. Surely, in one way or another you are reminded to certain aspect of your life when you were or you are like Adam and Eve. Once, you were already in the presence of God but your mind is pregnant with wrong paths or channels, and loaded with wrong decisions because you never learned to be satisfied. So Satan finds no difficulty in tempting you. You are filled with lust and desires: ***“I have to taste the fruit of this tree. I'm gonna eat it!”*** The fall of Adam and Eve in eating the fruit of the forbidden tree is not only a mere story of disobedience to God. It is not a mere dramatic event to a small sin. It is the beginning of sin. And the punishment of God, commanding them to leave the paradise is not God's injustice act but a consequence of man's disobedience. You may sympathize with Adam and Eve and question why God did not stop them from falling? But the fact is this: God has warned them, instructed them, and for sure He reminded them, but they fixed their eyes on the forbidden tree that represents sin, because they were unsatisfied and discontented with what they have. Consequently, Adam and Eve decided to disobey.

Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”(John 10:10) The thief is the devil who comes to spoil our lives, but Jesus is the tree of life that Adam and Eve forgot to fix their eyes on. Jesus' death on the cross taking our sins away and His resurrection from the grave giving us hope of eternal salvation, is our assurance of full and abundant life. Jesus makes our lives full but we must open our eyes and make ourselves see the million trees and the grace of God that we have already on hand. Moreover, if we just see the presence of the Creator not just what He has created, we will know what is to be filled and satisfied. God has sent His Son, Jesus, to be the only cause and source of man's salvation.

My Dear and Beloved: “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews12:2) Therefore fear God and obey Him as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord gives me discernment and awareness of all Satan's trial to tempt me and take me away from the secure place that I have in you. Lord I am satisfy with all what you gave me and I commit my life to serve you and walk in your ways, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.