
Adam, Eve And Sin

Lesson Two

Reading: Genesis 2:15-3:7

Introductory Thoughts

The word that comes to mind when thinking about the Garden of Eden is “paradise.” Adam and Eve had everything they needed there. They were safe and well-cared for. The trees were full of fruit right from the beginning (Genesis 2:16). Adam even had a job. God made him the gardener of Eden (Genesis 2:15).

Eden, however, was not simply a place of ease for Adam and Eve. It was also their classroom. The forbidden tree was a temptation because it offered them instant wisdom (Genesis 3:6). They knew they still had much to learn.

Perhaps God’s earliest lesson for man was, “Do not touch.” This is one of the first lessons we teach our children, and so it was for Adam as well. God planted a tree right in the middle of the garden and called it “The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” He told Adam and Eve they were not allowed to touch it or there would be severe consequences. That does not mean they couldn’t enjoy the tree. Eve said it was beautiful to look at (Genesis 3:6). They also might have enjoyed the mystery of this wonderful tree. The rule was only that they could not eat from it or touch it.

For this lesson, think about God’s marvelous wisdom in putting this untouchable tree right in the middle of the garden.

1. *Garden Of Eden Lesson One: Choosing To Love God*

As we saw in lesson one, our God is a relationship God. He loves us and wants us to love Him and be His children. But it is not love unless we have a choice. Can a man force a woman to love him? So God cannot force us to love Him. He must let us choose.

- **Read Joshua 24:14-17, John 6:64-68. What is the choice being made in these passages? Do you think God used the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil to present man the same choice?**

2. *Garden Of Eden Lesson Two: All Sin Should Make Us Cry*

- **Read Genesis 2:17. What was the very first consequence of sin?**
- **Have you ever committed this specific sin – taking fruit from a tree that did not belong to you? How would you rank that sin compared to others?**
- **Why does God see even in the smallest sin an offense deserving eternal death?**

When our children disobey for the first time, we tend to warn them or punish them lightly. We save the severest punishments for later. Yet God went immediately to the worst punishment imaginable. This should tell us something about how He views sin. When He hears a “white lie” or witnesses a lost temper, it grieves Him (see Genesis 6:6). To Him it is the same as witnessing a murder or child abuse. All sin deserves death. Perhaps we are the ones with the problem, since we are not outraged and devastated when we see sin. Perhaps we just don’t understand how devastating even the smallest sin is.

- **Think about what our sin cost God. What did He sacrifice to combat sin? Try to think of five things.**

3. *Garden Of Eden Lesson Three: The Holiness Of God*

- **In what way did Adam and Eve “die” when they sinned?**
- **What does it mean to be “dead” if our physical bodies are still alive?**

A “Dictionary” Definition of Death

1. *thanatos* (qa/nato\$, NT:2288), “death,” is used in Scripture of:

(a) the separation of the soul (the spiritual part of man) from the body (the material part), the latter ceasing to function and turning to dust, e. g., John 11:13; Heb 2:15; 5:7; 7:23. In Heb 9:15, the KJV, “by means of death” is inadequate; the RV, “a death having taken place” is in keeping with the subject. In Rev 13:3,12, the RV, “death-stroke” (KJV, “deadly wound”) is, lit., “the stroke of death”:

(b) the separation of man from God; Adam died on the day he disobeyed God, Gen 2:17.

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- **Read 1 Peter 1:16. Holiness means “set apart.” It refers to something that should not be mixed with ordinary things. How is God holy? What does it mean that we should be holy?**

We should not conclude that God is harsh because the consequence of sin is death. It has to be that way for Him. God has lived for eternity without sin. It is so foreign to Him and so unnatural that He cannot be in its presence. So when He tells us that we must die if we sin (i.e. be separated from Him), He is explaining what must naturally occur. The word “holy” means “set apart.” When used for God it refers to His separation from sin. He can never, ever, have anything to do with sin.

■ **Application Questions**

- Why should we try to quit every sin that we commit?
- What purposes do you think God would have had for man if he never sinned? And what did His purpose become for man after he sinned?