

Day 2

Genesis 2:17 (ESV)

“...but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Genesis 3:6 (ESV)

“So 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 to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.”

One thing that all believers should be aware of in their walk with Christ is that He gives absolute commands, and He expects absolute obedience. Christ does not give vague instructions, nor does He leave us with unclear expectations. Adam and Eve knew exactly what they were allowed to do and what they should not do. God gave them the command, “Don’t eat the fruit from this tree.” I don’t know for sure, but I can imagine that during those long walks in the cool of the evening, reminders were given. The problem started when Adam and Eve lingered too long by that one forbidden tree. Their eyes lingered too long on the beautiful fruit. And then they engaged in conversation with the evil one. Like many of us, they lingered in the presence of temptation. God had put them together so that they might support, encourage, and protect each other. But when you linger in the presence of temptation, it grows stronger. Eve picked the fruit. Both tasted the fruit. Both swallowed the seed of sin that would be passed on to every human heart for all time.

Adam and Eve committed several sins that day because they chose to put their desires before God. They disobeyed the Father. They lied. They coveted. In their desire to be like God, they murdered the very image of God in which they were created.

Keep in mind that Adam and Eve were created to have free will. The problem was not in the Creator’s design but that the created chose to exercise their free will and take what they wanted. We, like Adam and Eve, must be fully aware of God’s expectations. What the Father called sin in His Word all those years ago is still sin today.

Focused Prayer:

Be honest before God. Adam and Eve thought they could hide from the Father. They thought they could lie to Him. It was not possible then, nor is it now. Are there temptations in your life from which you need to flee? Are you enjoying the moments in which you are lingering in the presence of temptation? Has the problem gone beyond temptation to the point of sin? What is the Father saying to you today? Write it down.

There is a way out, but you must see the escape the Father has provided. Confess to the Father what is going on, and He will give you the strength to resist. Either way, He is waiting to cover your sin with His Son's precious blood. A new sacrifice is not needed, but confession is.

Today's Focus:

- We all have temptations we struggle with most. I always say, "If sin were liver, I'd be perfect. But sin isn't liver – it's chocolate cake." Take note of those things that tempt you most. Let the Father help you resist.
- Strength comes when we exercise our muscles. This is true in your spiritual life. Take every opportunity to flex – say no to the temptations today. Tomorrow it will be easier.

P.M. Meditation:

Did you find it easier to walk away from temptation today? Did you feel closer to the Father knowing you had confessed and accepted His forgiveness? Keep a record of each victory you experienced today, and if you stumbled, write that down, too.

Tonight, thank the Father for providing opportunities to escape the sin that hounds your life each day. Remember, you will never be trapped in temptation if you allow Him to deliver you. Rest tonight and rejoice that you are free.