

Eve's Apple

“Ordinary Object, Extraordinary Meanings”



“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” Ephesians 2:8

Was it an apple? Does it matter? Why did Eve want to eat it when there was so much other fruit available? Did Eve act alone? Why does Eve get the blame? Didn't Adam eat the fruit also? These questions have been debated for years and will probably be for many years to come. I would like to explore how the story in the garden affects our lives today. Our salvation is a gift as is everything on this earth is including the fruit and the serpent mentioned in the story.

Over the years many stories about Adam and Eve eating the fruit from the tree in the garden have grown. According to the Bible, a serpent questioned Eve as to whether or not she had been told she could eat from any tree in the garden. Eve answered truthfully. They had been told they could eat from many trees, but there was fruit on one tree in the middle of the garden whose fruit they were not supposed to eat. In fact, according to the Bible, they were told “Ye shall not eat of it; neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.” Genesis 3:3 NJV. That was pretty harsh. We don't know what kind of tree it was. The apple always gets the blame! It is worth noting that after they ate the fruit of that tree they did not die as we would think of death today. But, they did die to the way of living that had been perfect where they never had to work for anything.

“God called to the Man: ‘Where are you?’ He said, ‘I heard you in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked. And I hid.’ God said, ‘Who told you you were naked? Did you eat from that tree I told you not to eat from?’ The Man said, ‘The Woman you gave me as a companion, she gave me fruit from the tree, and, yes, I ate it.’ God said to the Woman, ‘What is this that you’ve done?’ ‘The serpent seduced me,’ she said, ‘and I ate.’” Genesis 3:9-13

The serpent had told Eve that wouldn't happen. That was enough to make Eve wonder. The serpent seemed to know more than God so when Eve was told by the serpent that she would not die, she believed! In fact the serpent told her she would be much smarter. He said “You won't die. God knows that the moment you eat from that tree, you'll see what's really

going on. You'll be just like God, knowing everything, ranging all the way from good to evil.” Genesis 3:4-5 (The Message)

But Eve wasn't going to do it alone. She went to get Adam and they both ate the fruit. After that they saw things differently and God approached them. Then the blame game began!

Adam blamed the woman that God had sent to be with him! The woman blamed the serpent because the serpent had deceived her and told her she could eat the fruit and not die! Eve didn't have to eat the fruit. The serpent didn't force her to eat it. Adam didn't have to listen to Eve. They both had free will. The serpent merely suggested that it was good for them to eat that fruit.

Many times we have the "fruit" in front of us. We know we shouldn't do something. We have been warned that it was not good, but we do it any way. Often times, the more we are warned not to do something, the stronger the will is to do it. We blame it on being human. We can always find someone else to blame when actually the blame lies with us, just as it did with Adam and Eve. We all know right from wrong, but often we are tempted and convince ourselves that doing a particular thing won't hurt anything. Today, even with the knowledge we have, we are still enticed by things that are pleasant to us even though we know they are not good for us.

Prayer: Almighty God, You have created so much for us and we should be satisfied with all that is good, but You also gave us free will and we often succumb to things that are not good for us. Help us to seek daily to do Your will and not be tempted by those things which are not good for us. Help us to see that following Your ways will lead to eternal happiness, and that the temporary happiness of earthly pleasures can cause us to be unhappy and not know Your forgiving love that he always there for us. Amen

1. Was the serpent the devil or Satan in disguise?
2. Where was the Garden of Eden? Did it actually exist? Or was it the perfect life and closeness to God that mankind has lost on this earth and will only know when we meet God in Eternal Life with him?
3. Was there a tree of knowledge?
4. What made Eve think the fruit was edible when God had told her not to eat it?
5. Did Adam and Eve eat the fruit to gain knowledge, or because they were tempted to do something in defiance of God?

P.S. I'd like to propose a thought for you. Since I happen to enjoy a different type of humor at times, I am often attracted to the works of Mark Twain. The following is from one of his books.

"It was not that Adam ate the apple for the apple's sake, but because it was forbidden. It would have been better for us--oh infinitely better for us--if the serpent had been forbidden." From Mark Twain's Notebook