

6th April 2008

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Readings - Genesis ch 2 v 15

Song of Solomon ch 2 v 3

Luke ch 19 v 1-10

1 Peter ch 2 v 22-24

## **Four trees**

### **Tree of the knowledge of good and evil**

This was a tree that man was forbidden to eat. Eve was deceived of the devil and disobeyed God's Word in the garden of Eden. As a result judgment came on mankind because of sin: "As by one man sin entered the world" (Romans 5:12)

Has Satan cast doubts in your mind about God?

That fact that we all die is an evidence that all have sinned, "It is appointed unto men once to die" (Hebrews 9:27)

In contrast, the Lord is sinless. "He did no sin" (1 Peter 2:22). As Son of God He was intrinsically holy. That is He was incapable of sin.

"Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29) - not everyone will be saved but everyone could be saved.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24)

If we believe on Him then we do have everlasting life. We have to accept it personally. This was costly to God but free to us. "The Gospel of Christ is the Power of God unto Salvation to everyone that believeth" (Romans 1:16); "It is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8)

Adam and Eve faced judgment so do we today. Saul spared oxen and cattle that he was instructed to destroy. He was therefore not allowed to be king because he disobeyed the word of God and came under judgment.

The world is disobeying God and facing eternal judgment. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great Salvation" (Hebrews 2:3). People allow the Gospel to pass by without taking notice. Are we all standing on the promises of God regarding Salvation? There is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun

Procrastination is the thief of time.

"If thou shalt be wise" (Proverbs 9:12)

Adam and Eve regretted their actions for the rest of their lives due to their disobedience to God.

### **The apple tree**

Song of Solomon 2:3: The apple tree is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. He stands out. "A word fitly spoken like apples of gold and pictures of silver" (Prov 25:11)

"Today if ye will hear His voice harden not you heart" (Heb 3:7)

The more you get to know people the more you see their limits but the more you get to know Him the more you marvel at His greatness.

What does He really mean to you?

Don't say tomorrow when the Lord says today (Prov 27:1). We can be saved not by what we do but by what He has done. "I give unto my sheep eternal life" (John 10:28)- safety and security.

"Behold I stand at the door and knock" (Revelation 3:10)

"I have loved thee with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3); "the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20)

Faith in Christ is a lifetime walk with Him.

### **The Sycamore Tree**

Zacchaeus was rich but was not contented (Luke 19:1-10). He had everything materially but was still left lacking. Money is not the problem it is the love of it.

"Love of money is the root of all evil" (1 Tim 6:10)

He wanted to see Jesus. Perhaps He had heard stories of Him. He was challenged but the Lord to make haste and come down.

He was covetous  
He was curious  
He was challenged

How many times have you been challenged by the word of God?

Have you responded to the challenge of the Lord Jesus Christ?

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt 11:28)

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20)

Saul on the road to Damascus was challenged and changed.

Zacchaeus was changed and people witnessed the change in him. He was changed because he acknowledged Jesus as Lord

"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus Christ and believe in thine heart that thou has raised Him from the dead then thou shall be saved" (Romans 10:9)

### **The Tree of Calvary**

"Bore on His own body on the tree" (1 Peter 2:24) Calvary is the centre of world history.

"My son, God shall provide Himself a lamb" (Genesis 22:8)

Luke speaks of Calvary but only mentions it by name once. Eternity is also only mentioned once. There is a link, Where you spend eternity is dependant on what you do with Calvary.