

QUESTIONS AROUND TEMPTATION

INTRODUCTION

- I. Very often, when responsible persons “yield” to temptation, they ask themselves a question, “WHY did I do that?”
- A. In connection with the very first temptation that Satan presented to a human being, there were several questions, one by Satan, and the rest by the Lord.
1. We ask, “what would be the situation if Adam and Eve had not been tempted to sin?”
 - a. 1st, there would be no need for the rest of the Bible.
 - b. 2nd, Jesus would not have had to die on the cross.
 - c. 3rd, the church would not have been established.
 - d. 4th, there would be no sickness, pain, suffering, trouble, wars and death.
 2. BUT, what happened DID happen, and God knew it would happen, so He had a plan to save us, as recorded in the rest of the Bible.
- II. In this lesson, we want to look at 5 questions that WERE asked in connection with the temptation of Eve.
- II. Now let’s look at the questions.

DISCUSSION

I. The FIRST question asked by the DEVIL. Gen. 3:1

- A. The devil misrepresented God by asking if He had forbidden them to eat of **every** tree in the garden, but God actually said they could eat of **every** tree **except** one. Gen. 2:16-17
1. Notice that when Satan approached Eve, she was close enough to the tree to look at it, and Satan knew that if she kept looking at it, she would eventually partake of it.
 2. The devil told her that **if** she ate of it, she would become wise, and she **did** partake, along with Adam. v. 6
 - a. 1st, she got an **A+** in **NUDEOLOGY**—learning what it was to be *naked*, as she was stripped of her garment of innocence, needing to be clothed with fig leaves. v. 7
 - b. 2nd, she got an **A+** in **SCAREDOLOGY**—being afraid for the first time in her life—that of GOD. v. 8
 - c. 3rd, Eve got an **A+** in **DEATHOLOGY**—for she immediately experienced spiritual death (a separation from God,) and would eventually experience physical death. Gen.2:16-17; 3:3-4, 22-24
- B. “DON’T KNOCK IT TILL YOU’VE TRIED IT”, appeared to be Satan’s philosophy. Actually, one is better off not knowing some things, but the devil’s philosophy was, “Don’t knock it till you’ve tried it. BUT, some things TRIED will DESTROY. I don’t have to get drunk, smoke pot, or commit murder or suicide or fornication to KNOW that it is wrong, and deadly to do so.

II. Then, the SECOND question is asked by the LORD. Gen. 3:9

- A. God wanted Adam to know he was lost, and how foolish to hide behind some trees. v.8
1. He learned he could not hide from God. Cf Rev. 6:15-17
 2. One wonders what would have happened if Adam had not partaken of the forbidden fruit WITH Eve.
 - a. Might He have said, “You go head and die, but I want to live”?
 - b. Lot’s wife looked back and became a pillar of salt, but HE did not look back to see how it felt, so he lived.
 - c. If one’s mate today wants to disobey God, the other might say, “You go ahead and head toward hell, but I want to live in heaven.”
- B. Ironically, there IS a place one can now hide, but it is not from God, but IN God—behind the tree of the cross. Acts 5:30; Gal. 3:13; Col. 3:3

III. Next, the THIRD question was also asked by GOD. Gen. 3:11

- A. Illus. CLOTHED WITH FIG LEAVES. Eve’s Designer Jeans might well have had a label reading, “Made By Satan,” and were 2 sizes too small. Adam’s suit might have had a label reading, “Made in Hell.” BUT, God told them to get OUT of those fig leaves into a garment HE would provide. v. 21

B. Today, people try to clothe themselves in the garments of man-made plans of salvation, and the cloak of good works to cover up their evil, but GOD says get out of them and be clothed properly. Gal. 3:27; Col. 3:8-10; 1 Pet. 5:5; 2 Cor. 8:2-3; cf Matt. 22:11-13; Rev. 19:7-8

IV. Then, the 4th question was ALSO asked by the Lord. Gen. 3:11

A. Their answers were a bunch of excuses. v. 12-13

1. God knew what they had done—He wanted them to admit it.
2. Beyond the excuses, Adam finally said, “I did it.”

B. Today, disobedience is attempted justification by many excuses.

1. Some refuse baptism because they have **hydrophobia**—they are afraid of water —especially in baptism.
2. Some miss worship because of **sleeping sickness**—they just sleep in on Sunday morning and miss worship.
3. Some have **Sunday Sickness**—they always get sick on Sunday, but recover enough to go to work on Monday.

V. Finally, the 5th question and final question is also asked by God. Gen. 3:13A

A. At least, Eve did not blame GOD or Adam, but attributed her fall to Satan. v. 13B

B. God then enumerated the consequences of their sin.

1. He first addressed the devil and the serpent. vs. 14-15
2. He then announced pain and submission to women for all time. v. 16
3. He finally announced toil and death for the man. vs. 17-19

CONCLUSION

I. The BIG mistake of Adam and Eve was that they disobeyed a simply and easy to understand command. Gen. 2:16-17

A. This is the sin of many people today.

1. Naaman first rejected a cure from leprosy because it was too simply, but was persuaded to obey the prophet
2. Some reject GOD’S plan of salvation which involves simply and easy to understand wording. Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38

B. Satan STILL has a way with keeping people to sin.

II. Exhortation..

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