



NO LIMITS

WITH PASTOR DELMAN

**HANDLE
WITH
CARE**

S E R M O N G U I D E

Handle with Care

Genesis 3:1-7

INTRODUCTION

My daughters just turned 16 and now have their learner's permits, so they are eager to get behind the wheel. But I had to remind them that driving is a huge responsibility that shouldn't be taken lightly. The vehicle they drive can take them to wonderful places, but if they're careless, it can destroy their future and hurt someone else. They must handle it with care. As I prepared this message, I realized that we should treat the Word of God the same way. Scripture is a vehicle that carries us to new places in the Spirit, lifting us when we're down, guiding us when we're lost, and pointing us in the right direction. But if we mishandle it, twist it, or weaponize it, the same Word that can bless can also break. When we interpret and apply God's Word, we must make sure it draws people closer to His heart, not drives them away. If we are going to get behind the wheel of His Word, then we must handle it with care.

KEY POINTS

1. Handling God's Word with Care Helps Us Clarify God's Command

When the serpent asked Eve, "Did God say you can't eat of any tree in the garden?", Eve responded, "God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it.'" But God never said they couldn't touch it, only that they couldn't eat it. Eve's good intentions led her to add something to God's command, making His Word more restrictive than it really was. That small distortion led to disobedience.

This is why we must "rightly divide the word of truth." Adding to or misinterpreting Scripture causes confusion and leads people astray. We see this today when Christians build doctrines on faulty translations or personal biases, using Scripture to condemn, rather than to heal. When we are unclear about God's command, we reach the wrong conclusions about God Himself. So let's study with humility and let the Holy Spirit guide us, so that our faith rests on truth, not tradition.

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2. Handling God's Word with Care Helps Us Clarify God's Character

The serpent was crafty. By twisting God’s words, he made Eve question God’s goodness. God’s command in Genesis 2 emphasized abundance: “You may freely eat of every tree.” But Satan reframed it to sound restrictive. He wanted Eve to see God not as a loving Father, but as a harsh warden.

That's still how the enemy works, distorting God's character until we believe He's trying to withhold good from us. But God gives us His Word not to hurt us, but to help us; not to deny us, but to develop us. Scripture reveals a God of love, freedom, and justice, not fear, shame, or control. When we separate God's commands from His character, we misrepresent His heart. And when we deny God's image in others, we dishonor His character.

3. Handling God's Word with Care Helps Us Become a Better Community

When we narrow Scripture to personal piety, we miss the broader mission of God: to bring redemption, liberation, and love into our communities. The Gospel is for everyone. Jesus declared that the Spirit of the Lord anointed Him to bring good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed. Any doctrine or theology that excludes people rather than welcomes them is not the Gospel; it's bigotry dressed up as religion. The Word of God invites whosoever will to come. No exclusions. No fine print.

We must learn to handle God’s Word with reverence, respect, and responsibility. It is living and powerful, able to lift, convict, correct, and comfort. Let it transform you, guide you, and lead you toward the abundant life God intends.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. In what ways have you seen Scripture used carelessly or out of context, and how did it affect others?
2. How can remembering God's loving character help you interpret and apply His Word with more grace and truth?
3. What practical steps can you take this week to handle God's Word with care in your conversations, teaching, or online interactions?
