



April 12, 2024

Good and Evil  
Part 2, The Desire

“Why?”

It seems that human beings start asking this one-word question almost before we can say “da da” (oh, I’m sorry... “ma ma”). “Why?”, is a good question because we learn when we ask it. But “Why?”, can also be a dangerous question when it is directed, in a questioning manner, to someone in authority, for example, GOD!

After the creation, God made just one rule, just one law for his first man and woman. We can’t even imagine a world with just one law. Our planet is so inundated with laws, regulations, codes, and statutes that it’s often easier to say what we can’t do rather than what we can! But truly, the first couple had just one rule. God said, *Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die* (Genesis 2:16, 17). Think of it! Every other element of the creation was Adam and Eve’s to enjoy. Just one tree—ONE TREE—was off-limits. Do you think they wondered, “Why?” I’m sure they did!

And so, what happened? Eve’s **desire** got the better of her. With the fallen angel Lucifer cheerleading, and twisting, and deceiving, Eve’s desire to know “Why?”, overpowered her senses and her respect for God and God’s Law, and she violated that one rule! She ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God tells us exactly what Eve was thinking and feeling.

*Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be **desired** to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

As Paul Harvey used to say, “Now we know the rest of the story!” Adam and Eve’s desire caused them to question, and then disobey God’s Law, and it got them and us into an awful fix.

But God also has a desire. Jesus Christ, the God-Man, desired to fulfill The Trinity's plan for the redemption, (i.e., the buy-back, the rescue) of mankind, so that He might bring *many sons unto glory* by his own suffering (Hebrews 2:10). In Hebrews 10 we read the prophetic declaration of the Son of God: *Lo I come... to do thy will, O God* (Hebrews 10:7, 9). On the evening<sup>1</sup> of the Passover, Jesus declared to His disciples, *With **desire** I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God* (Luke 22:15, 16). We call Christ's sacrifice His "passion", and the week leading up to the crucifixion "passion week". Jesus' loving passion—His desire—was to pay mankind's sin debt and make it possible for all men and women to be purchased back, to be redeemed. As Jesus explained to Nicodemus,

*And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved* (John 3:14-17).

Adam and Eve's desire brought disaster. But Jesus' desire brought deliverance! Praise God, we have been made redeemable through the blood payment of the Substitutionary Sacrifice, the Perfect Lamb of God.

So, what is your desire? Do you desire to be made free from the curse of sin? God is, *...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance* (2 Peter 3:9). You CAN apply the cleansing blood of Christ's sacrifice. You CAN become a forgiven child of the King, by repenting (i.e., changing your mind about how to be accepted by God), and in faith (belief), crying out for His loving, forgiving grace! It's NOT of works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved* (Romans 10:13).

God bless and consider!

---

<sup>1</sup> The Jew's day started at sundown, with evening, and then morning. See the Creation account in Genesis 1 and also Psalm 55:17.