

Delight in God's Wisdom

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

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The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman.

"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. - Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

When my mom was a kid she lived in Kenya. Her house was right next to a forest. Through the forest there was another Village. One day she journeyed with one grandma from her village to visit her other grandma in the other village. She was told one instruction: don't leave her grandma's sight.

Now if you've ever been to our house you know that we don't say goodbye traditionally. Instead we escort you to your car. Now when my mom was young there weren't many cars so this meant walking a guest out until the conversation stopped. Because of this my mom's grandmothers were just walking and walking, talking and talking, and my mom was six years old. So after a couple of minutes of listening, the boredom set in, and this six year old decided to walk home by herself.

Things started out okay. She used the trail that they took to get there. The path was straightforward. There was only really one way you could go. Pretty soon though she saw a man in front of her on the trail in front of her.

When they came to a fork in the road, the path to the right would have taken her straight home in less than an hour, while the path to the left led to villages in the forest. The man went right. In her infinite childhood wisdom she decided to go left.

The sun was now beginning to set and she's walking alone in the forest. It finally hit her. She's lost. If she turned around then she might be able to make it back before it was pitch black. And that's when she saw them - giant dogs - and they were starting to chase her. They were Malamutes so they might as well have been wolves to her. Terrified, she started to sprint down the trail not knowing where she was going.

Just when she might be caught, the owner of the dogs appeared and captured the dogs. Seeing a lost little girl, the dog owner told her she would bring her home. But she would need to stay put while the dogs were brought home.

It was now almost dark and she saw the biggest headlight in the world coming right at her. She was like a deer in the headlights except in her case she was a 6 year old in train lights. She was standing on train tracks!

But because the dog owner told her not to move she stayed still. It took the voice of God to force her off the tracks at the last second. And there she was a 6 year old, frightened and lost all because she trusted in her own wisdom.

The instinct of humans almost from birth is to trust in ourselves and our own wisdom and not delight in God and his wisdom. In the last couple of years, there has been a rise in hate crimes. They have always been around but it seems that since the height of the pandemic, they've escalated. At the very beginning of this year alone, there were crimes against Asian Americans on Chinese New Year who were just trying to celebrate like everybody else.

Just this week there have been numerous shootings of Jewish people at synagogues who were just trying to utilize their equal right to worship. When you think of hate crimes maybe a specific situation comes to mind. The tragedy that happened here on our very own Geneva campus in May 2022 is what I think of. How could these things happen? How could people be filled with such hate toward others? I believe it comes back to humans wanting to take their own wisdom and what they think is right and putting it above God's and not delighting in the wisdom of God.

Why should we Delight in the wisdom of God? Why should we always have to be patient and wait for Him to do something instead of entrusting our own judgment? Because of these three fruits.

First fruit: everything desirable is not always good. Recently I had to quit playing soccer, a sport that I've been playing since I was six due to numerous head injuries. It was to the point where my family felt it wouldn't have been safe for me anymore. Having to quit something you've loved can be very difficult. I still wake up some days and say to myself, "I have to pack for soccer practice." Then I remember I don't play soccer anymore. Unfortunately, the time that I stopped playing was right at the beginning of our

League season. I remember trying to recover so fast so that I can play our next game. I remember wanting to play so badly that I would just get on the bus, go play, and come back change. My mom would never find out.

I was still pretty salty that I hadn't played in the game but everything desirable is not always good. God used my family as an outlet for His wisdom to prevent me from getting any further injuries or worse. I can understand why we made that decision. Anybody in their right mind would have. Did it take me a while to get over it? Yes. Did I end up delighting in the wisdom of God? Undoubtedly.

The Second fruit is: the wisdom of God is much more fulfilling than anything we could give to ourselves. In our Genesis reading we see that Adam and Eve were living a perfect life until the serpent came. The serpent sowed doubt in Eve's mind to the point where she was questioning God's wisdom and decided to take the 'wisdom' for herself and Adam.

Adam and Eve tried to take their wisdom into their own hands by eating the fruit. They were met with an end to their blissful existences. If they just waited for God's timing it would have been more fulfilling and felt better because God's timing is always right.

The Third fruit is based on a line written by theologian J.I. Packer in his book "Saved by the Blood." The third fruit is: when a half-truth becomes the whole truth it becomes a untruth. Look back on the verses we read here today in Matthew 4:1-11. We read how Satan tells a half truth to tempt Jesus. Notice, it's not necessarily a lie but a half-truth. Satan tells Jesus to make food out of the rocks to end his hunger since he is God.

Jesus works as an example of what we are supposed to be like in this story because he did not let Satan's half-truth deceive him. Instead he acknowledged he is God and his Father sent him to do something other than satisfy himself. God's timing is always right and delighting in His wisdom will yield great results. We should be like Jesus and know that God's wisdom for us is better than our own.

This could mean that the next time you are stuck between two options, take a moment to pray upon it and Delight in that wisdom of God. It could mean that you take a deep breath before acting haphazardly on your own judgment.

Now I know you're all wondering what happened to my mom. Spoiler alert: She's still alive. The dog owner took her to the equivalent of a police station. Because her village was such a strong community, the sheriff knew her Grandpa who was a very prominent man. They were able to take her back home where she timidly awaited her punishment. Instead, her family was just too happy to see her.

Humans should not trust in themselves or their own wisdom but should always turn to God and trust in him. You can do this by delighting in God's wisdom!