

## Second Hand Revelation?

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In Genesis 2 we read about how God created Adam (V 7) and then put him in the garden of Eden to work it and take care of it (V 15). Then God gave one very specific command to Adam, that he could eat from any tree in the garden, except one (V16-17). Please note that Eve was not around yet at this point in time.

- Its worthwhile to pause here and look at a couple of things: (1) Right from the start man was told to work and take care of the environment. Thats the very opposite of what is promoted in our fallen world today, where we tend to let others work for us and don't bother about the destructive exploitation of our natural resources. (2) Man was free to eat from any except this one specific tree. The command not to eat from that particular tree had to do with clear protection (to not die), not limitation. Yet today, we tend to rebel against God's protective commands, labeling them as limiting and unfitting for a liberal world. And, conversely and paradoxically, we allow more and more man-made rules, laws and regulations encroach into the freedom of our lives in the attempt to protect our freedom.

Now, God saw that it wasn't good for man to be alone (V 18) and as there was no suitable helper around, he formed Eve from one of Adam's ribs (V 22), establishing marriage as the God-given way for man and wife living together right then and there (V 24). Anyway, without going deeper into this one, as we continue reading right into the 3rd chapter of Genesis, we discover that the crafty serpent enters the scene to go about his preferred job - deceiving and tempting for destruction. Its interesting that Satan does not approach Adam, who clearly heard from the Lord, with his cunning plan. He rather aims for Eve. Eve wasn't around yet when God commanded Adam not to eat from that specific tree. She only heard about it through her husband. And we don't know whether Adam was a bad communicator or Eve a bad listener. But what we read is that the devil approaches the apparently weakest link here, just giving the truth a little twist (V 1 and 4-5). He didn't even lie blatantly. He didn't even entice Eve to just grab that fruit. All he did was casting doubt on whether or not Eve heard or was informed correctly. That was enough and that was all he needed to do to entice her into sinning (V 6) and through her Adam as well (V 7). The rest of the story we know too well as we still have to battle with its consequences in our lives today.

- Like probably most of us I have read this incident umpteen times. But recently, I sensed the Lord revealing to me that the mode of operation used here is still one of the devils preferred weapons to pull God's people from their true calling away. So I wonder, is it possible that by and large God's people are missing the mark today because they are living on second hand revelation? Is it possible that we live on hearsay revelation, on something, others teach and preach to us, rather than on what the Lord communicates directly to us? The times of having to rely on an earthly mediator between God and man are long gone! We've got to grow up and become spiritually mature. So how much of the Bible do we really know? Do we really want to know? Do we study God's Word? Do we ask the Lord for revelation and understanding? Are we persistent in this like the widow in Luke 18 was in her case? Or are we content with whatever is preached to us from the pulpit or elsewhere without checking it out against Scriptures like the people of Berea did with Paul (Acts 17:11)? Can we identify truth and lies thrown at us against a solid knowledge of the Word? Even Jesus was tempted by the devil with Scriptures, which, of course, were taken out of context. But our Lord knew the Word well and would not be deceived. Likewise, we need to be firmly grounded in the knowledge and truth of Scriptures and sure of what the Lord is telling us personally if we want to stand up against the enemy. Because he knows Scriptures and is a master in twisting its truth.