

**LYDIA
GARDEN
PARTY**

**Monday
JUNE 18, 2007
7pm**

I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses.

Refrain

*And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.*

He speaks, and the sound of His voice,
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.

Refrain

I'd stay in the garden with Him
Though the night around me be falling,
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling.

Refrain

*Where the grace of God is missed, bitterness is born.
But where the grace of God is embraced, forgiveness flourishes.
The longer we walk in the garden, the more likely we are to smell like flowers.
The more we immerse ourselves in grace, the more likely we are to give grace.*¹

A.W. Tozer On The Value Of Retreat

“It is important that we get still to wait on God. And it is best that we get alone, preferably with our Bible outspread before us. Then if we will we may draw near to God and begin to hear Him speak to us in our hearts. I think for the average person the progression will be something like this: First a sound as of a presence walking in a garden. Then a Voice, more intelligible, but still far from clear. Then the happy moment when the Spirit begins to illuminate the Scriptures, and that which had been only a sound, or at best a voice, now becomes an intelligible word, warm and intimate and clear as the word of a dear friend. Then will come life and light and, best of all, ability to see and rest in and embrace Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and All.”

—A.W. Tozer, *from* The Pursuit of God

2

God took a bit of earth, formed a man, and breathed air into his nostrils. Men and women were created as a fitting balance to the rest of God’s creation. Verse 15 tells us that God “took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”

3

God spoke to Adam and gave him instructions about life in the Garden, which he later shared with Eve; they both understood what God told them (Gen. 2:15–17; 3:2–3). Adam was able to name the animals (2:18–20) and to give a descriptive name to his bride (vv. 22–24). Satan used words to deceive Adam and Eve (3:1–5), and Eve must have used words to persuade her husband to eat (v. 6). The Garden of Eden was a place of communication because God gave Adam and Eve the ability to understand and use words.⁴

¹Lucado, M. (1996). *In the grip of grace* (107). Dallas, Tex.: Word Pub.

²*Discipleship Journal : Issue 120*. 2000 (electronic ed.). Colorado Springs: The Navigators/NavPress.

³*Discipleship Journal : Issue 115*. 2000 (electronic ed.). Colorado Springs: The Navigators/NavPress.

⁴Wiersbe, W. W. (1996, c1995). *Be skillful*. An Old Testament study. (Pr 4:1). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

Did you ever wonder about those days in the Garden of Eden, before sin entered the picture to shatter the relationship between God and His two happy tenants? The Bible says God would come to walk with Adam and Eve in the garden, at the cool of the day. Did you ever wonder about those conversations? Do you suppose Adam rushed up to God with a clipboard and pencil in hand?

“Ah yes, there were just a few things I wanted to review with You, God. That new pomegranate orchard by the river, for one thing. Do you think we should hedge it with rhododendrons? Oh, and we’ve really had our hands full with those crazy gorillas in Sector Two...”

Don’t you imagine the first couple would have simply cherished being in God’s presence? Don’t you imagine them expressing their wonder and gratitude for the beauty He had created...for the cooling wind...for the crimson sunset...for the joys of companionship between husband and wife...for the privilege of walking and talking with the Creator of all?

5

God did not create Adam holy. He created him innocent, that is, without self-consciousness (as we understand the word) before God; Adam was conscious of himself only in relation to the Being whom he was to glorify and enjoy. Consciousness of self was an impossibility in the Garden until something happened, viz., the introduction of sin. To begin with Adam was not afraid of God; he was not afraid of the beasts of the field, or of anything, because there was no consciousness of himself apart from God. Immediately he disobeyed, he became conscious of himself and he felt afraid—“I heard Thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid . . .” (Genesis 3:10); he had ceased to be a child and had become a sinner. That is why our Lord says we have to become children all over again. Through the miracle of regeneration we are placed back into a state of innocence. “Sin kills the child out of us and creates the bitter sinner in us.” In other words, God’s right to me is killed by the incoming of my self-conscious right to myself—“I can do without God.” Sin is not a creation, it is a relationship set up between the devil (who is independent entirely of God) and the being God made to have communion with Himself. Disobey God, separate yourself from Him, and you will be “as God, knowing good and evil” (Genesis 3:5 rv; see Genesis 3:22). The entrance of sin meant that the connection with God was gone and the disposition of self-realisation had come in its place.⁶

⁵Jeremiah, D. (1998). *God in you : Releasing the power of the Holy Spirit in your life* (317). Sisters, Or.: Multnomah Publishers.

⁶Chambers, O. (1996, c1947). *Biblical ethics*. Hants UK: Marshall, Morgan & Scott.

After Adam's creation, God placed him in the Garden of Eden and told him to "tend and keep it" (Gen. 2:15). The Garden was free of weeds, predators, and natural disasters. Adam's job was to be the steward over God's perfect natural environment. But, unfortunately, Adam rebelled against God, so he, along with his wife Eve, were expelled from the Garden. From that point on, man battled with nature to survive, and nature fought back with tooth and claw, thorns and thistles, and natural disasters.

According to Genesis 3:17–19, the fall resulted in an animosity between man and nature that did not previously exist. It marks the birth of man's intrinsic exploitative nature. The harmonious relationship that God intended between man and nature was destroyed. The Bible does not say, however, that man's caretaker role over nature was lost when Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden. The fall did not remove any of man's accountability to God. Likewise, it did not remove his responsibilities as God's steward over nature.⁷

Consider the before-and-after images: The first picture is simple—a man and a woman who fully enjoy God and each other, and who are totally unselfconscious.

But in the second picture they have lost their sensitivity to God and to each other, and are so self-conscious they try to hide from each other what they are ashamed of about themselves. They also try unsuccessfully to hide from God. Their thinking is so pitifully off-balance that they hope to use material means the trees of their garden—to hide from spiritual reality.

This change in human consciousness was one of the immediate results of the fall of mankind into sin. As followers of Jesus Christ, how can we recover the continual God-consciousness and neighbor-consciousness that God first gave to Adam and Eve and intended us to have as well?

This reversal of focus—from self to God and others—is the key to our becoming effective servants of one another. When Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind," and "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27), he was giving us two foundational principles that help us in the day-by-day recovery of the God-focus and neighbor-focus we lost at Eden.⁸

⁷Story, D. (1997). *Defending your faith*. Originally published: Nashville : T. Nelson, c1992. (203). Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications.

⁸*Discipleship Journal : Issue 10*. 1999 (electronic ed.). Colorado Springs: The Navigators/NavPress.

Eve –“Life-giving” “Mother of all who have life”

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, “*It is* not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”

Why did God create Eve?

What does it mean to be a helpmate?

Characteristics of a Helper/Completer:

1. Discerns Needs of Others
2. Stays and Maintains
3. Doesn't take over, rather, does her part
4. Completes what he begins
5. Does what she can; can't do it all
6. Gives strength, resources, assistance

Characteristics of Lifegiver/Nurturer (Thinking out of the Womb!):

1. Protects
2. Teaches
3. Discipline
4. Encourages
5. Builds up
6. Cares for
7. Compassion for
8. Comforts

What is it so hard now?

Look at the order of creation:

1. God ruling over man
2. Man ruling over woman?
3. Men and women to rule over animals, etc.
4. The curse
5. Animal/serpent ruled over the woman
6. Woman influences the man
7. Man disobeys God

Genesis 3:16 – When God spoke to Eve after the Fall, He said, “Yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

Susan Foh (“Women and the Word of God: A Response to Biblical Feminism”) interprets this pronouncement as follows: “The ‘curse’ here describes the beginning of the battle of the sexes. After the fall, the husband no longer rules easily, he just fight for his headship. The woman’s desire is to control her husband, to usurp his divinely appointed headship, and he must master her, if he can. Sin has corrupted both the willing submission of the wife and the loving headship of the husband. As so, the rule of love founded in paradise is replaced by struggle, tyranny, domination and manipulation.”

God brought Eve to Adam
She was bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh

Genesis 2:23 – And Adam said: “This *is* now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.”

She is called Woman because she was taken out of man – man’s counterpart – taken from the place nearest his heart – indicates close relationship of man and woman – man and woman were made for each other

Nancy Tischler – The man slept through the woman’s creation, and has been puzzled by woman ever since.

Matthew Henry Commentary – The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.

What do you think being “one flesh” in a marriage means, both physically and spiritually?
(mind, emotions, will)
Marriage – nakedness without shame (not just physically)

Genesis 5:2 – He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created.

Created Male and female – called their name Adam – implies the ideal for man and wife (one flesh)

Genesis 3:20 – And Adam called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

She is called Eve because she was the mother of all living – name given to her after the fall – this is her destiny. First Woman to conceive a child and bear a child

Innocent
No inherited sin
Created Pure and Holy
Knew God personally

Do you think Eve understood God's command not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil?

Why do you think the tree was in the garden in the first place?

If God knew Adam and Eve would disobey, why did He allow them to be tempted by the serpent?

Do you think Eve ate of the fruit the first time the serpent approached her or did he wear her down over a period of time?

What God Said: From any tree of the garden you may eat freely but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die. (Gen 2:16-17)

What Eve said: From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat from it or touch it lest you die. (Gen. 3:2-3)

Disastrous results of modifying God's truth

Genesis 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

What three reasons for eating the fruit are given in Genesis 3:6?

I John 2:16 - For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

Lust of the Flesh
Lust of the Eyes
Pride of Life

James 1:13-14 -Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

Satan twisted the facts to his advantage – sounded reasonable – He told Eve she could sin without consequences. He told her that God was withholding something from her.

What things entice us?

Everyone's doing it; Do it your way; Do your own thing; It doesn't hurt anyone else.

Genesis 3:1-2 – Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

What form did Satan take in the garden?

II Cor. 11:3 - But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Who or what does Satan attack?

What was the difference between Adam's sin and Eve's sin? Is that important?

Was Adam with her or not at the time she talked to the serpent?

Adam was cursed because he listened to his wife. What influence do we have over others?

Gen 3:15 – And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

What will the woman's seed do to Satan?

Becky Freeman – “As the snake confused Eve in the garden, he still slinks about trying to confuse us today. Don't let a lying snake take away your joy of simply walking as a child with his (her) Father in the garden of life.”

Kay Arthur – “No listening to God is the way sin originally entered into the world. Adam and Eve did not listen to God. They listened, instead, to Satan, and believed a lie. And what they did affected all future generations.”

Then –they tried to hide from each other (fig leaves) & they tried to hide from God. Is this possible? Can we hide our sins from God? What do we do with the apple core?

God confronted them. Looking for Repentance.

The Blame Game

Consequences:

1. Sin entered the world (Gen 3:6)
2. Satan and man were cursed by God. (Gen. 3:14-19)
3. Hint of Christ's ultimate victory (Gen. 3:15)
4. Pain in childbirth (Gen. 3:16)
5. Women placed under Husband (Gen. 3:16)
6. Cast out of Eden – no going back (Gen. 3:24)
7. Maybe, Adam stopped listening to Eve.

Grace in the curse:

“Eve might have been subject to the serpent to whom she had foolishly acquiesced. But instead, she remained under the headship of her husband, who loved her. She might have been utterly destroyed, or made to wander alone in a world where survival would have been difficult. Instead, she was permitted to remain with Adam, who would continue to care for her and provide for her. Although their relationship would not have tensions that did not exist in Eden, she remained Adam's partner...In the worst case, Eve might have even been forbidden to have children. Instead, although the experience would now be painful and accompanied by sorrow, Eve would still be the mother of all living...As a matter of fact, the promise that Eve would still bear children mitigated every other aspect of the curse. That one simple expectation contained a ray of hope for the whole human race. There was a hint in the curse itself that one of Eve's own offspring would ultimately overcome evil and dispel all the darkness of sin. Eve had set a whole world of evil in motion by her disobedience; now, through her offspring, she would produce a Savior.” Twelve Extraordinary Women, by John MacArthur

What does God do for Adam and Eve after setting forth their punishment?

First Ever Blood Sacrifice

What does this tell you about God?

Eve suffered many losses:

1. No longer a perfect relationship with God.
2. No longer a sinless marriage.
3. No longer living in the ideal home, Eden.
4. No longer innocent (knew evil and sin).
5. Abel murdered.
6. Cain sent away.

She still had hope.

Eve has two sons –
Cain – “brought forth”
Abel – “breath, temporary, meaningless”
Seth – “appointed”

How to handle heartbreaking losses?

1. God’s faithfulness – Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.
2. God’s promises – Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
3. God’s goodness – Psalm 100:5 - For the LORD *is* good; His mercy *is* everlasting, And His truth *endures* to all generations; Psalm 30:5 -For His anger *is but for* a moment, His favor *is for* life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy *comes* in the morning.

God walks in the garden, calling out for Adam that he might have fellowship with him. In Revelation 21, when John sees the vision of the new Jerusalem coming down from heaven, he hears the voice of God say, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them” (verse 3). For all of eternity God plans to have fellowship with his people.⁹

⁹*Discipleship Journal : Issue 18*. 1999 (electronic ed.). Colorado Springs: The Navigators/NavPress.