

Homily Notes  
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**Adam, Eve and the Tree of Knowledge**

**The Garden of Eden**

We are all familiar with the Garden of Eden and it's inhabitants, Adam and Eve. But let's break it down a little bit and see what is really behind this story:

Who made the heavens and the earth?

Who made the garden of Eden?

Who benefited most from God's creation, Adam and Eve or God?

What did God tell Adam about the Garden?

**Genesis Chapter 2: 15 - 17** *"The LORD God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it. The LORD God gave the man this order: You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. From that tree you shall not eat; when you eat from it you shall die."*

Why did God tell Adam not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil? This was the tree that God gave to Adam and Eve, but that they had to leave for God. It was God's way of telling Adam and Eve that they must always put aside what God has commanded them to put aside and take from what he has deemed proper to take.

They were still ordered to cultivate and care for the tree of knowledge (see verse 15). They were still charged with making sure it grew strong and healthy, but they were ordered not to eat of it.

**Was the tree of knowledge set aside to benefit Adam and Eve or God?**

Adam and Eve...The tree of knowledge was set aside to benefit Adam and Eve...God already has everything! He did that so that Adam and Eve would realize they can have so many good things, but that they must be disciplined and obedient and thankful for what they have been given. God expected them to set this one little tree aside, even though it was "good for food and pleasing to the eyes."

**What happened when Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the forbidden tree?** They were thrown out of the Garden. God took away what he had given them.

**What was the most important thing God gave them in the Garden?** Closeness to him!! it wasn't the food, Adam and Eve still found food outside of the garden. It wasn't beauty, they still had a beautiful and fertile area to live in and cultivate, they just had to work harder for it. What they lost was a closeness to God!! God used to walk with them in the garden and after God was far away from them.

**What does the tree of knowledge of good and evil represent? The Tithel!**

**The problem with Adam and Eve is they ate their tithe!!!**

### **Tithe**

The tithe is a portion of what God gives us that he expects us to leave for Him. The Tithe is necessary because it is a constant reminder that what we have was a gift from Him. We certainly participate, but he was the one who gave us everything in the first place.

Who made the earth? God

Who made your body? God

Who made the arms and legs and back that you use to work? God

Who made the brain you have that helps you work? God

- **Most of us are just like Adam and Eve, we eat our Tithel!**
- **What happens when we eat our tithe? God is no longer close to us!**
- **Why do we give to the Church?** Most will answer, "Because I come to Mass here and I want to go to Mass with lights, A/C, have my children educated in CCD and have a priest"...and the list goes on.
- **Who benefited most from setting aside what God commanded, Adam and Eve or God?** Adam and Eve, of course. When they set aside what God commanded they walked closely with God and were in his presence. When they ate their tithe they lost everything.
- **If Adam and Eve benefited most from setting aside what God commanded (their tithe), then who benefits most from your tithe? YOU!!!**
- **You need to tithe more than the Church needs the money.** It is true the Church needs money to keep the lights turned on, have a priest, mow the lawn, help the poor, etc. But the real reason we tithe is for ourselves!!

### **Three Promises: If You Tithe**

1. You will have a better relationship with God
2. You will have a better relationship with your spouse/family.
3. You will hardly notice that you have less money. Certainly you will have to modify your lifestyle a little bit...less eating out, slightly less gadgets, a little older car, etc...but what you gain will outweigh what you give.
4. Overall you will feel happier, because being generous feels good!!

None of this is meant to be a guilt trip, or cause you added concern or make you think that all I want is your money. What I want is for you to be generous with a God who has been generous with you. The most important thing is that you have a set amount that you give every week, month or year. It is important that you sit down and make a budget that you stick to and that includes a definite tithe. It should not be an afterthought or whatever you have in your purse/wallet that week. It should be a set amount that you discern with God and your family.

