

Adam, Eve, and The Prodigal Son

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Rev. Paul Kenney

Purpose: To compare the story of Adam and Eve with the parable of the Prodigal Son. To understand what Jesus was trying to teach us through the different phases of the Prodigal Son's journey. To determine how the teachings contained in these stories can be applied to our own lives.

Mathew 17:20: He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

ACIM CH2 section VI: paragraph 9: The mind is very powerful and never loses its creative force. It never sleeps. Every instant it is creating. It is hard to recognize that thought. and belief combine into a power surge that can literally move mountains.

Metaphysical Bible interpretation involves seeking deeper, symbolic meanings behind the text of the Bible, often focusing on spiritual truths and universal principles rather than literal events. This approach emphasizes the inner understanding of scripture and its application to personal spiritual growth.

The Revealing Word on the Garden of Eden: When man voluntarily operates in accord with divine law, the rulership, authority, and dominion become his in both mind and body.

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The Garden of Eden

Love
Light
Peace
Kindness
Joy
Goodness
Oneness
Gratitude
Acceptance
Abundance
Forgiveness



ACIM Text CH2 section 1 para 3: The Garden of Eden, or the pre-separation condition, was a state of mind in which nothing was needed.

Genesis 2:17: 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.

The Revealing Word on evil: That which is not of God; unreality; error thought; a product of the fallen human consciousness; negation.

Websters Definition of Negation: “A negative statement, judgement, or doctrine. Something considered the opposite of something regarded as positive.”

2

The Knowledge of Good and Evil



Love	Fear
Light	Darkness
Peace	Conflict
Kindness	Grievances
Joy	Sadness
Goodness	Tragedy
Oneness	Separation
Gratitude	Judgement
Acceptance	Resistance
Abundance	Scarcity
Forgiveness	Condemnation

3

Takeaways from The Garden of Eden

1. Don't dabble in negativity as it will adversely affect the quality of your life.
2. If you find yourself in negativity...pray your way out.
3. Avoid guilt at all costs. If you find yourself feeling guilty, turn towards God immediately. Never turn away.
4. Always remember that God loves you and will never punish you for your mistakes.

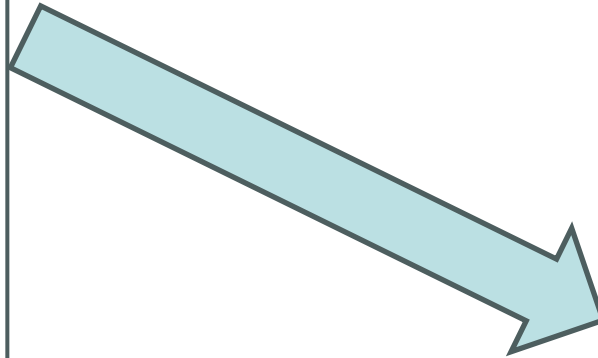
Luke 15:11-13: And he said, there was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me. And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.

4

Traveling to the Far Country

His Father's Home

Love
Light
Peace
Kindness
Joy
Goodness
Oneness
Gratitude
Acceptance
Abundance
Forgiveness



The Far Country

Fear
Darkness
Conflict
Grievances
Sadness
Tragedy
Separation
Judgement
Resistance
Scarcity
Condemnation

Luke 15: 14-16: And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

Luke 15:17-19: But when he came to himself, he said, how many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.

ACIM CH2 section 3 para 3: Tolerance for pain may be high, but it is not without limit. Eventually everyone begins to recognize, however dimly, that there must be a better way. As this recognition becomes more firmly established, it becomes a turning point.

Luke 15:19-24: And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. But the father said to his servants, Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to celebrate.

Luke 15:25-32 Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound. But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property, you killed the fattened calf for him! And he said to him, son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.

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Takeaways from The Prodigal Son

1. The grass is NOT always greener over there.
2. Joy, Peace, and Love are within the Kingdom of God, not outside of it.
3. If you turn away from God you can always turn back towards Him. He will always welcome you back with open arms.
4. Avoid judgement of another's learning process.
5. When your physical life has reached its conclusion, God will welcome you home and you will be celebrated way beyond what you could possibly ever imagine.

Recommendations:

1. Notice when your mind slips into negativity and make the turn towards God as quickly as you can. The longer we embellish negative thoughts the stronger they become.
2. Be alert for the tendency to escape the present moment and to seek for your happiness elsewhere. The past is a memory trace, and the future is yet to be. Only the present moment is real. Our connection to Spirit can only be accessed through the present moment.
3. Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit as our Guide and Teacher. The Holy Spirit is ready to help us but only if we ask. Correction of our perceptions by the Holy Spirit is the only solution that will last and often leads to inspired action. Trying to solve the problem on our own by changing the external circumstances may provide temporary relief but not permanent change.
4. Remember to say “I could see peace instead of this” and immediately ask the Holy Spirit to intervene on your behalf. Literally give your mind over to the Holy Spirit for correction. Then be patient and see what happens.

Adam, Eve, and The Prodigal Son Download

The Garden of Eden represents life as God intended it to be with boundless love, peace, joy, and prosperity. Since God gave us free will and also recognized the incredible power of our thoughts, He cautioned us to avoid negative thinking knowing full well that it would degrade the quality of our lives. As Adam and Eve explored the knowledge of evil (negativity), they suddenly became aware of their human limitations, developed a fear of God, and felt guilty for not following God's advice. As a result, they found themselves outside the Garden of Eden struggling for their own survival. Most of humanity continues that struggle today not recognizing how powerful their negative thinking actually is...all the while believing God will punish them for their mistakes. Jesus came into the world to change the mindset of a punishing God into the reality of a Loving God. In the parable of The Prodigal Son, the father welcomes his son home with open arms showing no concern at all for the son's transgressions. And so it will be for us each time we turn towards God...each time we choose love instead of fear...each time we choose compassion instead of judgement...each time we choose forgiveness instead of condemnation...and each time we see the Christ Light in each other. Amen.