

My Thoughts for Sunday

Women of the Bible --- Part One --- Eve, The Mother of Humanity

From a report of the American Bible Society in 2013, it was determined that the five most internet searched women in the Bible were Eve, Mary, Martha, Sarah, and Rebekah. These five women's life stories have something to say to women throughout the ages. In the next five episodes of "My Thoughts for Sunday" I am going to look further into scriptural accounts of these five women and hopefully shed some light on their lives and importance.

According to an excerpt of the American Bible Society (ABS) we have the following statement: *Eve is best known for giving in to temptation and then convincing Adam to do the same. But Eve, like all of us, was more than her sin. Her resilience is a model for every woman who has faced adversity -- even if it is of our own making.*

Let's begin with a brief review of the origins of Eve and the direct scriptural report of just what transpired. *"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."* Genesis 1:27-28 (NIV2011)

He then proceeded to give Adam some very pertinent instructions with a warning not to disobey, along with the results of disobedience. *"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.'*" Genesis 2:16-17 (NIV2011)

Take note that God gave the command to Adam, not to them both. This is because He had already set up the family arrangement, with Eve being the helpmate for Adam. He was to be the authoritative figure in the family and thus the responsible member for keeping God's commands. Satan, the serpent, also knew this God-ordained marriage relationship and the roles of each. This is why he approached Eve with the deceit and temptation. We must always remember that this wily serpent, Satan, generally approaches those weak in their spiritual condition, those who are still working to remove themselves from the enticements of this world. He does not want anyone to leave his grasp and find their salvation in the blood of Christ. Look how he went about to deceive Eve with his half truth of, "you will not surely die." He was well aware that through this single sin to be committed by Adam, that they would in time experience death. Death was never something that God had planned for mankind when He completed His creation. This death only came as a result of sin. See what Satan actually said to Eve in the following, *"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."* Genesis 3:4-5 (NIV2011)

Let's look at the outcome of Satan's deception. Eve fell for that first lie, *hook, line and sinker* as they say. *"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."* Genesis 3:6 (NIV2011)

Notice that contrary to the words from the ABS, there was no deception or temptation by Eve toward her husband Adam, "*She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.*" This is why it is so clearly stated in Paul's letter to the Romans "*Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—*" Romans 5:12 (NIV2011) Yes, Adam was that man and through him, we are all sinners.

Here was where God gave His first promise of redemption that we are all so joyous about. "*So the Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.'*" To the woman he said, '*I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.*' " Genesis 3:14-16 (NIV2011) God has promised to raise up an offspring from woman that would crush the head of Satan. This was accomplished in the birth, death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Returning to the importance and relevance of Eve in our lives, we need to look at just who she was. First of all, and a very important factor, she was the created woman, the mother of all humanity. Secondly, it was through her offspring that God would raise up a Savior for us to remove our sins, thereby redeeming us from the curse of death and hell. Third, we see that although her first son, Cain, killed her second son, Abel, she went on to fulfill God's command to be fruitful and fill the earth. It was through her offspring that Noah was born and with his family were the only flood survivors. Through Noah's descendants came Abraham who was given the promise of being the father of all God-fearing people of the earth. Abraham's descendants included our very own Savior, Jesus Christ, who came to "take away the sins of the world."

I feel very confident that Eve, after being reprimanded by God and receiving the punishment He was now bringing down on all women due to her disobedience, had a strong change of heart and followed the commands of God through her husband and lived a more faith filled life. I believe she strongly looked forward to God's promise of redemption that was to come through her offspring.

This brings us to Paul's first letter to Timothy regarding the salvation of woman through childbearing. "*And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.*" 1 Timothy 2:14-15 (NIV2011) It was through her continuing in faith love and holiness that all mankind eventually realize the salvation through Christ that was promised so very long ago.