

What's the Big Deal About a Piece of Fruit?

Some might think the penalty for Adam and Eve's transgression was too severe when it regarded only a piece of fruit. (Genesis 2-3)

Let's review the circumstances. God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the blessed environment of His creation. God gave them "life," which included peace, companionship, sustenance and wholesome activities with which to be occupied. God gave them a warning regarding the evil which could enter their lives. God warned them not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil for it would cause their death. Because Adam and Eve disobey God it did not turn out well. The penalty for Eve was that she would have sorrow in bringing forth children, and she would be ruled by her husband. For Adam it meant the ground was cursed. He would toil against thorns and thistles by the sweat of his face. Both would return to dust and both were evicted from the garden of Eden, and disallowed from eating of the tree of life. Again, some think, "All of this just because of a piece of fruit?"

Satan only needs a very small item or an single occasion to steal peace. Previously, before the transgression, Adam and Eve's were unashamed. Thereafter they were ashamed and afraid. They did not like themselves and they feared God's presence. The size of the object does not determine it's potential for evil. It's not just a piece of fruit, it's about stolen peace!

What seems harmless is an entry point for death. Romans 5:12 says, "*Therefore just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.*" We see that Satan's goal was for man was death. Death could only enter the world by sin, and sin would only enter by man. Satan use a piece of fruit to get this accomplished. It's not just a piece of fruit, it's an entry point for death!

Obedience is determine by "small" things. As parents we tell our children chores we want them to do. When they ignore or rebel, it's not the chore which is the major issue, it's the obedience. Jesus says that our obedience is essential, whether commandments are "small or large."

He said, "*If you love Me, keep my commandments*" (John 14:15). It's not just a piece of fruit, it's about obedience to God!

It's about the relationship. When God said, "*you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die*" (Gen. 2:17). The death He spoke of was spiritual death, a separation of relationship which they experienced immediately. Notice upon sinning that Adam and Eve did not walk with God. Honoring God and His requirements is necessary for us to keep our relationship intact. Jesus teaches this connection when He said, "*You are My friends if you do whatever I command you*" (John 15:14). It's not just a piece of fruit, it's about the relationship!

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