

kingdom of man
as layered humanity
Part Nine
(Mental Focus - Singleness)

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Meditating on the Bible

Isaiah 11:1-10

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

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We have seen the power that is contained in aesthetics, but, we need to extend beyond dependence on that. It is nice to be able to appreciate pretty things; isn't it? But, what should we think about the ingredient of, control? Aesthetics seems to have a way of wresting control from us. Here, I have an image of a male jogger, running along a beach, as he passes by attractive young ladies. Next, I see him turning, to continue his observation of a certain one of them. There are several television presentations of young men that are in this sort of situation; as they trips over some stationary object, while looking back. This concept has much ancient iteration, involving various sorts of reviews of attractive items. The beginning of that ancient collection is this.

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of

the fruit thereof, and did eat,

...

(Genesis 3:6a)

At that point, Eve and the fruit possessed an intellectual type of drawing force, as for a certain man. This is an attraction that has a power that may be even more potent than sight of the eyes. The drawing force is: the anticipation of tastiness. (What is that quote: The way to a man's heart is through his stomach?) That came into play, at this time.

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and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

(Genesis 3:6b)

We can see that, that narrative does not go into detail about Adam's state of mind. Even so; the brevity of the narrative seems to indicate that, Adam did not spend much time in evaluation of the offer. It seems that, Adam behaved much like many modern husbands: the wife sets the table . . . the man eats what is there. To gain a complete picture of Adam's state of mind, we have to wait for more narrative about the overall event.

Later, we learn these two things: Adam knew what he was eating, and, the consumption of what he received was not a good action for him to do. We see that, here.

*And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden
in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from
the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.*

And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

*And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid,
because I was naked; and I hid myself.*

*And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the
tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?*

(Genesis 3:8-11)

The LORD God would not have been asking Adam about something that Adam did not already know. As the question came to Adam, he already knew that he had eaten something that he was told not to eat. Furthermore, Adam indicts himself, here; as he tries to push the blame in another direction.

*And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave
me of the tree, and I did eat.*

(Genesis 3:12)

It seems that, Adam was actually trying to blame God for his error. It seems that; Adam was saying that God had, what is the word, entrapped Adam. Of course, we know that was an error, on Adam's part. That was not a sufficient reason--excuse--such that,

Adam would be able to vindicate his action, as he stood in the convicting gaze of the LORD God. Our first father was informed that he was responsible, accountable, culpable, blameworthy, and any other weight of conviction that applies to that action. God made that clear, here.

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

(Genesis 3:17-19)

But, why was Adam hit by such a heavy indictment? Maybe it was because; he was in the position of primary understanding. This was definitely Adam's direct burdens; in that, it was to Adam that the LORD delivered the mental challenge.

And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 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.

(Genesis 2:15-17)

Yes, this rises to the level of a mental challenge: because, Adam was required to remember it, and to wrestle with it, for the entire time of his life in Eden. In other words: Adam needed to focus on that directive.

The matter of, Adam applying restraint, as pertained to partaking of the fruit of the restricted tree of the Garden, was only the first of several directives on which Adam had to focus. One of the more powerful (yet quiet) directives occurred when Adam was placed in this exercise, by the LORD.

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

(Genesis 2:18-20)

As we read, in the Scripture above; we can conclude that, Adam was capable of performing that task. So, Adam could not say that, he did not have the capacity to focus. Additionally; even after the trauma of the invasion of the knowledge of good and evil; still, Adam was able to focus on necessary tasks. Among those tasks is this one.

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.
(Genesis 3:7)

As a kind of certification of Adam's eligibility for access to wisdom, as in the matter of the covering; the LORD confirmed the direction in which Adam was heading, as He intervenes and completes the lesson of proper attire. It was necessary for the LORD intervene; because, Adam only had a cursory understanding of what it meant to, not be naked. Wherefore God did this . . .

Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.
(Genesis 3:21)

There may be some folks who want to indict Adam further, for his behavior; but, that is not appropriate. Everything that happens, in all Creation, is under the LORD'S control. All things happen in accordance with God's purpose. And the purpose for that first overreach of mankind was this: to set a lesson in reality, as especially framed for adam (mankind)--us.

From there, we (adam) had a long road to travel, toward acquiring the necessary appreciation for mental focus, as individuals. There were many experiences through which we had to travel and endure. In those ancient days, we were still constructing the living narrative of the Bible; so, we did not have a ready reference for the next step. Of course, the LORD knows what all our next steps are, even now . . . just as God did, then. However, as pertains to the early Scripture, the LORD is somewhat lean in the provision of reasons for performance of His ordinances. At that point, the majority of the principles of Scripture, such as the following one, were not a part of our options for focus.

Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

*If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:
But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword:
for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.*

(Isaiah 1:16-20)

This is the reasoning ability that was a seasoning which was waiting for a coming time. In that time, of Adam's, we were in this type of period of individual need . . .

And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

(1 Corinthians 3:1-4)

But, we were moving toward the place of mental focus that would extend into more rigorous territory; requiring more robust actions from us. This very quiet event signaled the beginning of the extension.

And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son: And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed.

(Genesis 5:28-29)

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**Next, in  
kingdom of man  
as layered humanity  
(Mental Focus - Extended)**  
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