

Children's Newsletter

But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

Proverbs 4:18-19

Communication

Have you ever said something only to have it misinterpreted? This usually doesn't yield good results. In fact, if it is not corrected it can have disastrous consequences. As evidence for this, I will go back to the first sin ever committed. Three mistakes in communication were made before the sin was committed.

In the Garden of Eden, God told Adam "you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." (Genesis 2:17) In the next chapter Eve says to the serpent, "but God did say, 'you must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden and you must not touch it or you will surely die.'" (Genesis 3:3) Compare these two statements. Where did God say not to touch the tree? Was in Genesis 2:26? No, God never said that they could not touch it. There is one other difference you may have not noticed before. God referred to the tree of knowledge, but Eve simply referred to the tree in the middle. According to Genesis 2:9 what tree is in the middle? Read Genesis 3:2. The Hebrew word translated trees here is the same Hebrew word translated as tree in verse 3 of this chapter. Now, I am no expert on Hebrew, but do you think it is possible that Eve was referring to both the tree of knowledge and the tree of life? This is the first mistake.

"You will not surely die, the serpent said to the woman" (Genesis 3:4). There are several forms of lying. This one I call "telling the truth in just the right way, so as to cause the listener to misinterpret you." It is still lying. Eve wouldn't die if she touched the fruit. Eve wouldn't physically die that day. But, the serpent caused Eve to believe that she could eat the fruit without dying spiritually. This is the second mistake in communication.

"She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it." (Genesis 3:6b) How long was Adam there? How long did Adam keep his mouth shut? If Adam would have spoken up, this sin may have never been committed. This is the third mistake.

When communicating, you need to make sure that the listener understands. And if you are the listener, make sure that you don't misunderstand. In closing, I want you to find a King James Bible and look up Genesis 2:17. The version I used here is NIV. Notice that a little detail is left out of the NIV. "in the day" is replaced with the less definite "when."

God bless you,
Matthew Day