

Bite Size Bible Study

Knowing Good and Evil #183

By Pastor Lee

I find it most interesting when I run across an article or documentary that connects that subject with my understanding from the Bible. Recently I watched a documentary on the Business of Drugs. You may think that this is a strange topic to be related to the Bible but it has several common points.

There are 6 major, and many more minor, drugs that make up the illegal drug trade. This business makes billions of dollars each year – more than the total GNP of many small countries. On top of this there are billions of dollars and millions of man-hours spent in trying to destroy this trade.

The business model looks a lot like an hourglass. It is bulbous at the top and at the bottom but squeezed in the middle. On the bottom are those who produce the product, whether Cocaine, Heroin, Meth, Cannabis, Opioids or some other drug. These people are generally people at the bottom of the income scale. They work hard to provide for their families, but being on the bottom rung of the income ladder, it is a losing battle in many parts of the world. Any of the illicit drugs that can be produced in their area will provide many times an ordinary income, even though it may be fraught with dangers of side effects or incarceration. For people at this level, drug production is a no brainer. It is a question of living or starvation.

On the top we have those who use the drug. Many of these people are hooked on using. These drugs are designed to produce the desire for more or at a minimum to maintain the level of chemical in the body. Like alcohol these drugs have a short pleasure span, followed by an emotionally low “hangover” time. These drugs produce or release chemicals in the brain that produce a euphoric sensation. People may use these to combat depression, life’s miseries, and hopelessness or just for the fun of it. But the euphoria is short lived and returning to the use is almost inevitable. The down side, which is often ignored, is that these drugs also affect the heart, lungs, kidneys, and/or liver. Used too frequently they can cause medical problems or death. To obtain these drugs, many people will do things that they would never do if they were not hooked on the drug.

In the squeezed middle of this hourglass are the “drug lords”. Generally they do not use but control the business remotely. They are the ones that make the real money. They may have a militia or even an army that protect the flow of these drugs. They control the people who produce the drug, those who transport the drug, and those who distribute the drug and indirectly the users.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any wild animal which Adonai, God, had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You are not to eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman answered the serpent, “We may eat from the fruit of the trees of the garden, but about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, ‘You are neither to eat from it nor touch it, or you will die.’” The serpent said to the woman, “It is not true that you will surely die; because God knows that on the day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it had a pleasing appearance and that the tree was desirable for making one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her; and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together to make themselves loincloths.

Gen 3:1-7 CJB

Does this scripture seem have similarities to the drug trade? Maybe.

The “drug lords” know that these drugs are not good for the users, but the money is more important than the lives of the people. God knows that the “Tree of the knowledge of good and evil” is not good for Adam and Eve at this time and He is more interested in their welfare than knowledge they possess.

His purpose was that the knowledge gained from the tree was not good for them at this point in their maturation. He was not keeping them from knowledge; just structuring it to their maturity. He had created the tree and when it was created said, “*it was good*”.

Most of these drugs have useful medical uses but when used indiscriminately or long term they can and usually do cause much harm to the physical and mental structures of a human being. Just as in the case of the tree, the use of the drugs without the maturity to use them properly causes us “*to surely die*”.

The knowledge that was gained from the tree has caused an unfathomable amount of damage to humanity and death to billions of people. We still are not mature enough to handle the knowledge of the tree, or the drugs. But we have them both and are suffering the consequences.

Jesus came to teach us that we don’t need the knowledge of the tree or the drugs to overcome our hopelessness, life situations or give us the euphoria we desire. His teaching was that following His example would suffice for all our needs.