

I did not realize until hearing the announcement about the Christmas banquet tonight that perhaps my Scripture is quite appropriate at this time. It is Gen. 3, the first few verses, and it is about eating. (Gen. 3, reading text vv.1-6)

My subject this morning is Decision. In Joel 3 we read, Multitudes multitudes in the valley of decision. That is looking forward to a future event, a time of tremendous importance for those living at that time. But all of us in one way are in a valley of decision. We frequently have important decisions and often the very failure to make a decision and act upon what we know is right, is the equivalent of making a decision.

In this case the decision should have been a very easy one. God had given her a command. The advice given her broke the command God gave. You would think that would be very easy. But how very frequently each one of us is faced with a decision and we do not start with thinking, What is God's will in this situation? What would He have me do? Time after time we've had notices on the board of an opportunity to assist a pastor for the summer to gain experience in reaching people for the Lord, and in handling some of the aspects of the work of the church. I have found that those who spend their summer in practical work get twice as much ~~xxx~~ from their next year in seminary as those who don't. Yet time after time there have been hardly any who have responded to such opportunities.'

What is our objective? Is it to serve the Lord? Is it to learn to serve Him effectively? Is it to get the experience that will enable you to take your knowledge when you get out and use it for the Lord's glory? Or is it simply to satisfy your curiosity about the Bible and the things of God, and your major objective is earning money or taking care of some off the the other aspects of life.

Of course there are many cases where the other aspects of life have to be taken care of. There's no question of that. We're not criticizing those of whom this is the case. But it is very easy to imagine it is the case when it is not. In a way we have to admire those men in the early days of the Christian church who went out into the wilderness and lived without any of the good things of life thinking they were giving up everything for the Lord's sake. We admire their attitude. I don't think we admire their wisdom. Because God surely did not leave us here to go off by ourselves. He did not leave us here simply to satisfy our curiosity. He left us here to win others to Christ. He left us here to show others how to grow in grace and above all, He left us here in order that we might learn to put Him first and to accomplish His purposes.

So the decision should have been an easy one for Eve. But it was not. That is often the case with some of us. Many times in my experience someone has come to me and said, I am so confused, I don't know what to do. I've two possible courses of action and I don't know which to take. I've said, Which of these would