



Grain

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! Matthew 4: 8-10a

Field

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”... ²³ So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side^[e] of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. Genesis 2:15-17 and 23-24

Thoughts by Dr. William Mattson, retired Professor of Insect Ecology

The creation parable tells of early humans, Adam and Eve making selfish decisions while living in the Garden of Eden, their gifted paradise. As a consequence, it forever cost them their special relationships with their Creator, their paradise, and with their fellow humans. One common interpretation is that early humans forfeited a Heavenly life on Earth. Some mystics say that’s where Heaven truly is and it can be recovered. Adam’s and Eve’s blissful life vanished, and they came to discover that they were in a different place, far away from the paradise of Eden. The parable is about the importance and fragility of our relationships. It’s about how we humans can move either closer to or further away from a utopian heaven depending on how we value and nurture our spiritual and physical relationships with our creator, fellow humans, and our home, i.e. the rest of earthly creation. Can we discover and recover Heaven on earth by seeking loving relationships with one another, all of creation, and God? Isn’t that what Jesus taught? It may be argued that ALL of these relationships must be simultaneously cherished and nurtured and in good repair in order to find that sacred physical and spiritual place. Look around, and ask if we latter day Adams and Eves are climbing toward or are falling ever further away from our gifted Garden of Eden. God help us to help ourselves do better at these sacred relationships. We have immense responsibilities that precede our rights. Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy