

A top-down view of a white ceramic coffee cup filled with dark coffee, sitting on a light-colored, textured surface. Two cinnamon sticks are placed near the cup. In the bottom left corner, another similar cup is partially visible. The background is a mix of light and dark textures, possibly a tablecloth or paper.

Devotional

FRESH CUP

Chuck Todd

...the enforcer...
...emptied out...
...draw...
...bribe. NO, it wa...
...the driver to c...
...to cell...
...level of mobility...
...the no...
...Corruption at the...
...implement the...
...Now the MMDA wants to...
...violators. Is it conv...
...form of "arrest" for traffic...
...make the arrests...
...or lack of conviction to make...
...a traffic viola...
...them stick? Do we wait and...
...let a traffic viola...
...on with their wrong driving habits for month...
...year before we let them know they've been...
...say arrest them on the spot, spoil their day...
...them learn as soon as possible.

...Round and Round the Rotunda...? Wha...
...In case you don't know or have not heard...
...Shaw Boulevard Rotunda that used to be a...
...mark between the old provincial capitol...
...row and Barrio Kapitolyo has been snea...
...piece by piece in order to avoid a firesto...
...sible oppositionists. They did it so well...
...that many motorists and pedestrians...
...how much longer is this hide and seek...
...For starters, locals and motorists...
...what the national or local authorities...
...in terms of traffic management. Will...
...light/intersection between Shaw Bo...
...Commons and Barrio Kapitolyo? O...
...those organic intersections maintain...
...organic personnel of the Pasig TPM...
...People are also asking about the...
...unfinished concrete posts at vario...
...the intersection. Vendors in the...
...for an elevated platform for pe...
...come they've stopped working...
...last three months, blocked walk...
...entry into the village? With pe...
...cats fighting for space, this "co...
...an "accident" waiting to happen...
...It would help if the people...
...both local and national came...
...exactly what they intend to d...
...project taking so long and wa...
...lowed to dig, dump, and wa...

...Still in the area of Pasig...
...Avenue to St. Paul Road...
...by a number of vehicles...
...flow at high speed nearly...
...soon discovered that the...
...a speed hump by driv...
...was only on half the ro...
...These half-humps...
...ideas but in truth the...
...accidents. A year or...
...in a car accident ins...
...one of the resident...
...the half-hump ave...
...kids drove one sid...
...side over the hun...
...St. Paul road hal...
...and a risk and...
...road! The same...
...traffic areas in

EVE

Eve is a tale of innocence corrupted. She was the mother of all living. For Adam, Eve was truly a match made in Heaven. Unfortunately, in just moments, Eve changes from the garden goddess to the destroyer of humanity. She truly submitted to the dark side. Although history paints Eve as truly evil, I question what really happened. Is Eve truly deserving of the reputation she has? The sin she committed while in a state of deception forever changed the course of human history. Let us not overlook the fact that Eve was deceived. The paradox of deception, however, is that no one knows they are being deceived. Once you find out you are being deceived you are no longer deceived. All of us have been deceived at some point. You are currently under a deception if you think you have never been deceived. Eve and evil may not be synonymous.

According to scripture, God instructed Adam to not eat of the tree of Knowledge of good and evil. God then decided it is not good for man to be alone. Adam may not yet understand how much he needs a mate. Instead of just telling Adam “here is your wife, love and protect her” He let Adam understand how important it is to have someone. We are allowed into the process that God used to lead Adam into that thought process of needing somebody. God had Adam name the animals. As Adam observed the animals, he notices that each one had a partner, yet he was alone. Notice God saw the problem, devised a solution long before man even noticed there was a problem. After Adam named the animals, he understood he needed a mate. His desire was now in alignment with God’s will for him. Adam was put to sleep and a rib was taken from him and from his side, Eve was created.

This timeline shows that God instructed Adam to stay away from the tree, but we are not clear on how Eve got this information. Let us review the dialog from Gen. 3. (NKJV)

1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

Notice that Eve added “nor shall you touch it”. This is more than what God commanded. This discrepancy opened the door for Satan to confuse and deceive Eve. This is an example of extended relationship. Adam had an intimate relationship with God; Eve had intimate relationship with Adam. God was like her “father-in-law.” In reality God was her father also. Eve’s relationship with God should not have been through the Adam the mediator, but with God himself. As information is passed from one to another, there is always something changed. We have all seen, and probably played, the “telephone game” where you line up four or more children and whisper something in the first child’s ear and let them whisper it into the next child’s ear until the last child will announce what they heard, which is generally something very different than the initial message.

EVE

This is also how religion can be very dangerous. God said do not eat of the fruit. Apparently, Adam told Eve not to even touch it, an extra protective measure to ensure that she does not sin. This protective addition is a problem found in most religions. I once had a rabbi tell me about these protective circles. God forbids something. So, the Rabbi's will draw a circle around that which is forbidden and make all in the circle to be sin. A protective layer so to say. Then another circle will be drawn around that first circle to make sure no one really violates what God actually forbade. This problem is Eve's problem. The additional rules are not from God; they are added. This is Satan's playground. Once he can convince someone that the "protective" layers are not really forbidden by God then anyone can easily be confused on what God actually said. Satan can easily guide his victim across the line and violate God's command. Maybe, if Eve would have been clear on God's command, Satan would not have been able to deceive her.

We have all put extra protective layers on what God calls sin. It may be good. Many call this "holiness." If you are not deceived and have added a safety layer for your protection so you do not accidentally violate God's command, it is probably a good thing. But if it is demanded by others for you, it is religion. Religion will always say its protective layers are "commanded by God." Beware. Do not be deceived.

The best thing you can do is to RUN. RUN now and RUN fast into the arms of God. Only there will you get the truth. Only there can you live in confidence He wants you to live in. You will never be close to God if everything is ran through someone else. God is calling YOU to Him. Don't hide. Expose yourself to Him and your life will be fulfilled.

TODAY'S CHALLENGE:

- Discover what God actually commanded for all.
- Then pray to understand what God's commandments for me are. (Know the difference between God's commands for all and for me. Don't demand others to follow the command God has for me, personally!)
- Seek and nurture a direct, personal, and intimate relationship with God.