

Monday Morning Rewind - March 24, 2008

"The Lord is risen. *He is risen, indeed!*" I hope you found a way to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord this weekend. If you worshiped this past Sabbath at the Kuna church you partook of the communion service and heard the Tale of Two Trees.

We returned to the Garden of Eden in Genesis and saw the two trees God placed in its center-the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Eating from the Tree of Life represented a continuous, unbroken connection to God, the source of Life. Adam & Eve's immortality was conditional upon their **believing in, cleaving to, trusting in, and relying on God**. And every time they ate from God's tree, they affirmed their choice to maintain this life-giving relationship with Him.

Sadly, Adam and Eve chose to partake of the Tree of self-revelation, self-exaltation-the Tree of independent and experiential knowledge of good and evil *apart from God*. Once they separated themselves from the Source of life, death was the result. God banished Adam and Eve from their garden home and put an angelic guard at its entrance to prevent them from eating of the Tree of Life and immortalizing sin (see Gen. 3:22-25). That left only one tree-the one of their choosing; the one that produced sorrow, pain, and death.

But in heaven a plan had already been made to plant another tree of life. And that second tree was the cross! Through the cross, God gave the human race another chance to choose Him again. Rewind to Numbers 21:9; Deut. 21:23; Gal. 3:13; 2 Cor. 5:21; and John 3:14, 15 to learn how Jesus *became* sin ("accursed by God"), by being hung on the cross so that we could become the righteousness of God.

The option for life eternal through believing in, cleaving to, trusting in, and relying on God that was lost in Eden is restored on Calvary!

The same two options that were available to Adam and Eve in the garden are available again to each of us. On the first tree hung fruit that enabled the first humans to live forever. On the second tree hung my Forever Friend, Jesus-the Bread of Life. And Jesus said "the one who feeds on me will live because of me." (John 6:57) Won't you choose to "feed" from God's new Tree of Life today? And by the way, the cross is empty. He's no longer there. And the tomb is also empty. He's no longer there either. "The Lord is risen. *He is risen, indeed!*" -Pastor Randy