

LWML Texas District

August 29

Meditation

Tree of Life

Trees are beautiful, especially when they are full verdant display or changing colors with the seasons. Fruit bearing trees can be particularly beautiful when they bloom. Think of the cherry blossoms in Washington D.C. in March. The blooms tend to only last about two weeks, but the trees themselves can live for thirty to forty years.

Many years ago, a man bought a tree from a nursery promising it to be a pear tree. The tree grew and matured, yet the fruit it produced was tiny, never getting much larger than a pea. He had purchased an ornamental pear tree. He was furious. He had planned to eat the pears, can them for winter consumption, and share them with his friends and family.

Convinced by his wife, he allowed the tree to live. Ultimately, the tree became the largest one on their property, providing the perfect place for tire swings and shaded picnics. It even grew so large it shaded half of their modest home.

Biblically there are two trees of note: the tree of life and tree of knowledge of good and evil. Neither of which are labeled as a specific type of tree like others mentioned in the Bible such as: sycamore tree, fig tree, cedar trees, terebinth trees, palm trees, olive trees, balsam trees, etc.

The tree of life is mentioned in Genesis, Proverbs, and Revelation. Contextually, tree of life is very different in Proverbs than Genesis and Revelation. Proverbs says things like, “The fruit of the righteous is the tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise” (11:30), and 15:4, “A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.” Godly wisdom is called a tree of life as well (Proverbs 3).

Trees can bring forth significant amounts of life. They can be used for food production, clean air, habitats for animals, recreation for children, building materials, shade, beauty, and even be a part of our salvation.

The ultimate tree of life on earth for us, is the tree on which Christ died. His death in such a gruesome way provided the ultimate sacrifice for us. Redemption for a broken people, separated from God, longing for reconnection with our Creator. Just like the man who planted the ornamental pear tree, people of Jesus day probably did not understand the role a tree would play in their (and our) lives.

Deuteronomy 21:22, tells us that a person hung on a tree is cursed. Galatians 3:13 makes it clear that Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, by his death on a tree. So, what tree do you think is the most beautiful tree in the world?

Written by Kayla Winkler

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