

Adam, Where Are You
Bishop Theodosius (later Metropolitan Theodosius)
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The scene of this little story is just outside the east gate of the Garden of Eden. The Lord God is walking in the cool of the evening, when He comes upon Adam. Adam is dressed in a dark blue business suit, white shirt and maroon tie. He is also wearing a black hat, and on his wrist he sports a gold wrist watch.

“Well, Adam,” said the Lord, “It’s been a long time since I’ve seen you around the Garden of Eden. Are you thinking about trying to get back into this place of pleasantness, this delightful garden where there is bliss and peace of mind? Where are you, now?”

Still Struggling

“I’m still struggling along, Sir,” Adam answered respectfully. “I sweat a different kind of sweat for my daily bread than I did when I was first set down outside your little paradise. I no longer have to depend on roots and berries. I’ve been roasting cattle and freezing vegetables for quite a few years now.”

“Yes, I know,” the Lord God said. “I’ve been watching you. Have you learned anything since you were cast out for your smartaleck disobedience and rebellion?”

“Yes, Sir!” Again, Adam was quite careful to be properly respectful. “I’ve done pretty well at conquering the elements. If I don’t tempt fate too far, I can get along OK with the winds, and the storms and the floods. And I’ve got most of the beasts under control. But I am surprised, Sir, at the number of beasts there are. I no sooner get one named than I come upon a dozen or so more. Now I’m exploring the world of viruses. We get along. My greatest trouble, though, is still with myself. Eve causes me a little trouble now and then, but mostly I have trouble with myself, trying to make myself do the things I know I ought to do.”

You Thought You Knew All

And the Lord God said: “Same old Adam. You were put out of my ‘little paradise,’ as you call it, because you thought you knew it all. You got just enough of the fruit of good and evil to make you a judge—to judge things that were not your business. I guess you are not willing to take my word for what you ought to do.”

“Beg your pardon, Sir,” said Adam. “But this is a new thought to me. I never understood just why You put me out of Your Eden and made me sweat for my bread. I knew that I had rebelled, of course. You said it was because I got a little knowledge and immediately set myself up as a judge, condemning people?”

“Yes, Adam,” the Lord God answered him. “You will notice that I neither judge nor condemn my children, but you do. You fuss about their color, ancestry, social status, and you think that an unfortunate child ought to be punished instead of loved.”

“And You are telling me not to judge, Sir?” Adam was lost in deep thought as he asked the question.

Thou shall Not Judge

“Thou shall not judge,” said the Lord. “Thou shalt love me first of all, and thy neighbor in the same way as thyself. I sent my Son down to show you how to accept my will. He said of his murderers: ‘Forgive them; for they know not what they do.’ And still you do not learn anything. Your half-bite of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil makes you want to rival my power, still. Come back in a day or a thousand years, and show that you have learned to accept my will. Begin again where you failed. Learn to accept your brother without judging him. And when you’ve done these things, we’ll talk about your chance to get back into paradise.”