

## **Msg #167 of Scripture Beneath The Surface**

*“Follow The Leader”*

With Randy Smith

(269) 763-2114

### ***Preparation Ministries, Inc***

PO BOX 475 OLIVET, MI 49076

[preparationministries@gmail.com](mailto:preparationministries@gmail.com)

*(Please feel free to call, or send messages)*

**Web Site:** <http://www.preparationministries.net>

### **Broadcast Schedule**

WOLY AM 1500 - Battle Creek, **Sat. 10am - Sun. 9:30am**

WLQV AM 1500 - Detroit - **Sun. 10am** - Also, Internet Stream - [www.am1500wlqv.com](http://www.am1500wlqv.com)

KFNX AM1100 - Phoenix, AZ - **Sun. 9:30am** - Also, Internet Stream - [www.1100kfnx.com](http://www.1100kfnx.com)

WFPM

99.5 FM in Battle Creek - **Fri. 3:30pm**

99.9 FM in Albion - **Fri. 3:30pm**

103.7 FM in Jackson - **Fri. 3:30pm**

Also, Internet Stream - [www.wfpmradio.org](http://www.wfpmradio.org)

Hello! Thanks for being with us. Today I'd like to talk about leading and following. I spoke last week about the concept that Eve ate knowledge in the Garden of Eden, and that this knowledge was the word of Satan in place of the word of God. What Eve did was to follow Satan instead of following God. And by the way, if you didn't hear the message last week, and you still wonder what fruit Eve ate when Satan tempted her, please contact us and we'll send you last weeks message, #166, called, "Eating Knowledge of Good and Evil." It should answer the question for you of what fruit Eve ate. And no, it wasn't the apple.

Anyway, I'd like you to think about this concept of following as apposed to leading. If you follow Jesus, you put him first. If you are following Jesus, he is in front of you. This means that when you come into sight of other people, they see Jesus first. Now, don't take this the wrong way. Just think about it. If Jesus is leading and you are following, and you meet someone, who will they see first? Think of this concept of leading and following as being in a single line. You know, like playing follow the leader. As an example, consider this. Here we are walking down the road and Jesus is leading. And we're following him because we're playing "follow the leader." So, we come across a group of people and they look up and see us. However, at first they see Jesus, and not us, because Jesus is in the lead. He's in front of the line. So the people see Jesus first, and then when we get closer they see us following him.

You see, this is the way it is supposed to be. At least, this is the way it should be if Jesus is your leader. But many times we Christians forget that Jesus is at the front of the line. We forget that Jesus is supposed to be leading us, and we make the mistake of passing him and starting to take the lead ourselves. Or worse, we put someone else in front of Jesus and start following them. This is bad, because then Jesus is no longer the first thing that people see.

In fact, this is what happened in the Garden of Eden when Eve was tempted to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. She was presented with an opportunity to let Satan step out in front of the line and lead her where he wanted her to go. And, sad to say, that's exactly what Eve did. Instead of maintaining her position behind God, she decided that she liked what this little snake had to say, and decided to let Satan take the lead, at least for the time being.

You see, Eve didn't want to die. God had told her that if she ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, she would die. But Satan had just shown her that eating the fruit was a thing to be greatly desired. In fact, Satan had told Eve that if she ate the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, she would be as God, knowing the difference between good and evil.

Now, here was a very interesting thing for Eve. She knew that God was really something, and that in fact God had created her. Up until this time Eve looked to God as her authority. God told her what to do, and she did it. But here was this sneaky snake telling her that she could eat of the fruit and still not lose her life because what God had told her about this business of dying was not really true. Eve then decided that she could have her cake and eat it too. She decided that she would not follow God concerning this little bit of knowledge and she would temporarily listen to Satan. She would temporarily remove God from his leadership position and allow Satan to take God's place. She decided that Satan could take the place at the head of the line, and that she would fall in behind him and follow him.

Now, where did this put God? Well, it's pretty simple. It put God out of the lineup. God was not in the lead, and it's certain that God is not going to follow Satan in this game of follow the leader, so off went Satan down the road with Eve following close at his heels.

Now, I know this might seem silly, and here again it seems to be a matter of overkill. But I want you to understand the concept of leading and following. What actually happens when you follow someone is that you follow their word. Now, it may be for many different reasons, but essentially you follow someone when you agree to what they are telling you to do. Eve followed Satan because she believed his word. In fact, she not only believed Satan's version of the truth, but by doing so she had to reject God's version of the truth. Eve actually followed Satan's directive because she agreed that his word carried the most weight.

However, in a sense, that's what we all do. We follow the directives of those who carry the most weight. If God carries the most weight, then we follow God. If Satan carries the most weight, then we follow Satan. However, this doesn't mean that when we follow Satan that his word is actually true, but rather it just means that although we think Satan's word carries more weight than God's word, actually we are just deceived. However, this doesn't change the outcome. The

one we choose to follow is still in the lead. Whether we think that God is wrong, or Satan is wrong, either way we have put one of them in the driver's seat. And in the case of Eve, and also in the case of millions of people since, she put Satan in the drivers seat because she was deceived. God's word was true after all, and because Eve sinned, everyone would eventually die. But Eve didn't find this out until later. For now, Eve was going to let Satan be at the head of the line, and she was going to play follow the leader with him. God was temporarily set aside.

It was right at this time that the concept of good and evil was presented to Eve first hand. She then knew that there could be two opposing thoughts, and that one of them was good for her and one of them was bad for her. She had just eaten knowledge from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and now she not only knew that there could be an alternative to obeying God's word, but she had actually chosen to let Satan be that alternative to God's word, and had allowed Satan to lead her.

This meant that Satan was now Eve's authority, at least for a moment. However, this didn't totally destroy Eve because God had a plan to restore Eve to him. God had a plan to bring Eve back in line behind him and to reject Satan. Although what Eve had done was significantly evil to God, still, God was ready to redeem Eve from the hands of Satan.

You see, if God had allowed Satan to continue to do what he had done to Eve, and had not initiated his plan of redemption, then Satan could have taken over God's throne. Yes, that's what I said. Satan could have taken over God's throne. You see, it is the word of a person that determines his or her authority. It is the word of a supervisor that you follow. It is the word of a king that you follow. It is the word of your Father and Mother that you follow. It is the word of your teacher that you follow. Or, it may even be the word of the jailer that you follow. Even if you follow a dictator, you follow him because his words are backed up by force. But you don't ever follow the force of the dictator, you follow the dictator because of the force behind his words. It is still the words of a person that you follow.

No matter what we do in this life we experience the concept of leading and following. Some of us lead, and some of us follow. In some respects, everyone follows, and to some extent many lead. But in this world there is no one who only leads. Even the most powerful person in this earth only leads most of the time. And that's because it is God who is the supreme leader. Even if the person doesn't acknowledge God, still, that leader is under the authority of God anyway because as the Bible says in Romans 13:1, "there is no power but of God."

You see, God is the only power, and eventually, everyone will see this, and will also acknowledge it. Eventually the game of follow the leader will be played with God in the lead and Satan bringing up the tail.

Ooops! Did I say that Satan would be bringing up the 'tail'? Hmmm! Yes, I believe I did say that. Satan will be bringing up the tail. In fact, Satan is the tail. He is not the head, God is the head, and Satan is the tail.

The Bible refers to this head and tail concept twice in the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 28, and indicates that from God's perspective, you are the head when you are favorable in his sight, and you are the tail when you are the cursed of God. In verse 13 of that chapter God also indicates that when he makes you the head, you will also be above your enemies. They will be below you.

This is the general concept of authority. When you have the power of God, you will be over your enemies, and they will be subject to your power. You will be their leader, they will bring up the tail. But Satan didn't think this was true, and that's why he tempted Eve to eat knowledge from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Satan believed that going against God could bring him power. In fact, as I've said many times before, Satan used his tail to draw a third of the angels away from God. This is described in Revelation 12:4.

Now, think about this. Look at any animal in the animal kingdom. The tail is that which follows, and the head leads. But Satan rejected the headship of God. He thought he could use his position in the line of authority, his tail position, and turn things around and become the leader. In Isaiah 14:12-14 it says, "How are you fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How are you cut down to the ground, who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High."

Now, this is what Satan has attempted to do. Of course this is stupid because God is the head of everything. God is the authority, and the Bible makes it very clear that there is absolutely no power anywhere or in anyone except that power which God specifically allows. God is the head, and God will always be the leader. But in the Garden of Eden, Eve temporarily bought into Satan's theory that the tail could actually lead. So Eve followed Satan for a moment, and this put Satan at the head of the line. This put Satan in authority over Eve because she had obeyed his word instead of obeying God's word.

But God is the head. God is the power, and there is no power but of God, and therefore there is no head, no authority, unless God gives it, unless God allows it. It is God who determines who is the head of you or me. If you have a supervisor, it's because God has determined that you need a supervisor just like the one you have. If you have a husband, then God has determined you need a husband just like the one you have (at least for the moment). Now, this doesn't mean that God doesn't ever want your situation to change, but it does mean that you didn't just fall into this situation, but God actually put you there. Remember this simple rule. God is the all mighty God. He is all powerful. There is no power but that which comes from God. Therefore, using this simple rule, you know that whatever situation you are in is no accident. What comes next might be a change, but for sure, there will be change or won't be change depending on what God determines is the best thing for him and for you.

You see, God is in control. Even though Satan thought he could take over the leadership of earth, God is still in control. Satan's plan was a stupid plan because he was all tail. Oooops! There's that concept of the tail again. But then, that's what Satan is all about. He is the tail, the

ultimate tail, and never will be the head. And that's what God is signifying in the Bible by describing Satan as a serpent. A serpent is practically all tail from a visual standpoint. God used the concept of Satan as a serpent in the Garden of Eden to demonstrate the concept of head and tail. In addition, God uses the concept of the animal kingdom to describe people who think that the tail can be the leader. Of course, tails can't lead. Heads lead, tails follow. Animals have tails, and this is why the Bible constantly uses animal symbolism to describe Satan and to describe others who give in to the temptation to let the tail be the leader. And remember, a third of the angels became convinced that the tail could be the leader.

And this is also why God put Eve under the authority of Adam. Remember in Genesis 3:16 God told Eve that because she had given into Satan's temptation, her desire, her longing, would be toward her husband to rule over her. You see, Eve had temporarily rejected the rule of God over her, and had accepted Satan as an alternative. God used this breach of obedience to demonstrate proper authority. God used symbolism. God said, "you have rejected the headship of God, so I will make your husband your head. Because you have sinned by allowing Satan to be your head, I will make your husband to be your head and you will look to him as your authority.

What this actually did was to establish the concept of authority. And this authority of the head of the woman is referred to by Paul in 1 Corinthians 11. It says that the man is the head of the woman. This means that the man is the authority over the woman. Now, now, don't jump to conclusions. This is an important concept. Don't get sidetracked by the inherent problems with this. Just realize that the line of authority is important enough to demonstrate outwardly in the flesh for the whole span of earth's time. Not only did God make Adam to be the head of Eve, but he made Jesus Christ the head of Adam. And ultimately, it made God the head of Jesus. It says this in 1 Corinthians 11:3. Being the head means being in authority, and God is the authority over Jesus, and Jesus is the authority over man, and man is the authority over the woman.

Now, if man plays his part of follow the leader in the right way, this would be wonderful. However, very few men do a very good job of it, but then, very few women do a very good job of following. That's because we're all human and we don't really know the first thing about authority. That's why we're here on this earth, to learn about authority. Sure, we could be like the animals who have tails and think that we can have no master. But the animals cannot comprehend their future with God. So if we act like beasts, then we would just be like Satan, glorifying the tail instead of glorifying the head.

---

The head of man is Christ. This means that Christ is the authority. However, Eve was not the only person to make the mistake of rejecting God as head and replacing him with Satan as the head. Eve allowed Satan to be her head temporarily, but so do we on occasion. Sometimes more than occasionally. In fact, sometimes we completely forget that Jesus is supposed to be our head and we start thinking for ourselves and making decisions that are about as stupid as what Satan did when he rebelled against God. We start acting like animals with tails instead of standing up on our two feet and acting like men.

You see, we humans have a hard time with authority. That's why the history of earth contains so much evidence of warfare. Wars have been fought in the world since time began. There is always someone fighting. Humans have a natural attitude of rejection of authority because we want more for ourselves than God has given us. Eve wanted more for herself than God had given her. She was willing to trust the serpent who was all tail in order to get more for herself. And many times we Christians seems to want more than what God has given us. We think we deserve more. We forget to be content with such things as we have. We forget that Jesus bought us with his blood and so we forget that Jesus is therefore supposed to be our authority, that he is supposed to be our head.

In Revelation 20, verse 4, it tells us about the souls of those people who have been beheaded for the witness of Jesus Christ. However, the first thing Christians do is assume that all these Christians had their heads chopped off. But that's not what it means. It means that if you're a Christian, you have made Jesus Christ your head. Just as Jesus demonstrated the concept to us and made God his head, we should also make Jesus our head. We should make Jesus our authority. Instead of trying to do everything according to our own thinking, we need to just let Jesus lead us. Jesus is our head. Looking at Revelation 20, verse 4 this way, we see that the Bible is talking about being beheaded for the witness of Christ. It is explaining that just as Jesus refused to be his own head, but made God his head, we too should not be our own head, but should allow Jesus to take the place of our head in order that Jesus can be our leader. It is this simple concept of follow the leader that Eve, and everyone else, was ignorant of. We Christians, if we really are Christians, need to return to the concept of Jesus as our authority, and therefore we need to be beheaded. We need to take off our head and replace it with Jesus. We need to stop following our own thinking, and start following Christ. This is the true witness.

You know, Christians have been told for a long time that if they miss the rapture the first time around, then they will have to have their head chopped off in a guillotine in order to get to heaven. This is not true. This doctrine comes from the misconception that being beheaded is a result of being a witness for Christ. However, being beheaded is not a result of being a witness for Christ, but it is something every Christian needs to do in order to witness of Christ. If you don't replace your head with the head of Christ, then you really aren't a Christian after all. True Christians allow Jesus Christ to be their head and tell them what to say and how to act. This is what Jesus did as an example for us. He allowed God to be his head and therefore his words and actions were the words and actions of the Father and not himself. Satan loves it when people become fearful about having their heads chopped off. As long as Christians fear the guillotine, they won't be thinking about removing their heads so that Christ can be Lord of their life. And you know, the sad thing about this is that if you don't become beheaded for Christ now, you won't be living with him later. Believe me, if Christ is not your head in this life, you won't have a life with him for eternity. Either God becomes the leader and you become the follower, or you really aren't serving God after all.