



"It all started with a tree...it all ends with a tree!"

I loved climbing trees as a kid! How many kids in here love climbing trees! How many adults in here still climb a tree! I love sitting in the stand during hunting season in a tree! What a view! What a feeling!

1. God made the trees!

- **Genesis 1:11** – God made the trees!

2. The Bible likens a Christian to a tree!

- **Psalm 1:3**
- **Jeremiah 17:8**
- **Psalm 52:8**
- **Colossians 2:7**

A. When trials come!

- **Job 14:7** – I believe this man has every right to share this one!
- **Proverbs 13:12** – Hope in Jesus is life! Just like a healthy tree!
- **2 Kings 19:26**
- **Parents**...what you choose for your family will either scorch/burn your kids or keep their hearts tender and safe! The way that you go through the trials of life and the choices after those trials either lead to scorch or growth!
- Is keeping forgiveness or bitterness in your own life WORTH your kids being burnt for life? I'd do anything to keep my family together...even after very hard trials! **Why?**
- **Your kids are a GIFT from God!** They are TENDER and YOUNG! Satan would love for this life to scorch them!
- Who has the most influence in their lives? **YOU DO** as the PARENT!
- Remember this as you make your decisions...God has forgiven you of every sin that you have ever committed and sinned against Him **IF** you have repented. He has done the same for your spouse, children and family too when they repent.
- *Your kids will either resent you or forgive you...the choice that you make matters!*
- *How can you do this? Live a life of forgiving others! Keep your leaves green and not dry!*

- Hosea 14:8 **God says this about Himself** – “I am like a tree that is ALWAYS green and ALL of YOUR fruit comes from Me!” (You can do this because God is this!!!)

3. It started with a tree and ends with a tree!

- Genesis 2:9 – **TWO TREES** – Tree of Life and Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil
- Genesis 2:15-17
- Genesis 3:1 / 4 – A lie and deception!
- Genesis 3:6 – Saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious. Eve and Adam both disobeyed God and sinned! Genesis 3:17
- *The CURSE of SIN was unleashed!*
- Matthew 3:10 – talking of people who do not live for Jesus! Sinful lives!

So...here comes Jesus!

****Born in a manger** – Manger is wood and wood is a tree! Luke 2:6-7

****We see another tree! The Cross! Acts 5:30** – you killed Jesus by hanging him on a tree!

- I Peter 2:24 / John 19:17 / Mark 15:24-25 / John 19:30 / Galatians 3:13
- I Corinthians 1:18 – the power of Jesus on the **cross** for us!
- John 20:24-29 – Jesus died for Thomas...**Jesus died for you and me!** Yet, He is alive!!!!
- **Why?** So that we would not dry up and die in our sin! That we would have life!

4. Tree of Life!

- Genesis 3:22 – If they would have eaten the fruit they would live forever! Eternal Life!
- *So, what does God do?*
- He sends Jesus, His one and only Son to be **BORN and LAY in a tree** and then **DIE on a tree** and give us eternal life if we so choose! John 3:16
- Revelation 2:7 – To the one that conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God!”
- We get a chance to go back to what Adam and Eve **first** started out to be because of Jesus! Perfect and sinless one day!!!
- Revelation 22 – says that the fruit gives life, and that the leaves are **healing** for the nations! *No longer will anything be cursed!* This is the future!
- Jesus said in John 14:6 – “I am the way, the truth and **the LIFE!**”
- How important is it that we not only know God’s Word, but do not add to it or take away from it? Revelation 22:19 – Your share in the **Tree of Life** will be taken away! Eternity without Christ! That’s how serious this entire life is to follow Jesus or not!
- *We have a **small wooden cross** for every person today. This is a simple reminder that Jesus was willing to die on a tree for you and your family!*
- *Keep that little wooden cross somewhere that you can see it every day as a reminder that you have been forgiven and that Jesus can help you to forgive others! That you have Eternal Life with Him forever!*