

THE LION'S LUNCH

Devoured by the Devil

Int.

1. Aim: To give warning about the Devil and his plans to destroy.
2. Text -- I Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"
 - a. **Be sober** =
 - i. Calmness of mind, mental self control. discreet
 - ii. In v. 7 he says to "cast your care upon him"
 - iii. Do not be overly concerned with the cares of this world
 - b. **Be vigilant** = watchful
 - i. Be wide awake, always on the alert
 - ii. Some are too careless
 - iii. We must remain alert, sharp, remain in control. Be on Guard!
 - c. **Adversary** =
 - i. An opponent in a lawsuit; Satan is the one on the opposite side of a trial for life or death
 - ii. Your enemy
 - d. **Devil** =
 - i. One who deliberately and knowingly makes false charges against the saints of God.
 - ii. He is opposed to man

e. **Roaring Lion** =

- i. The fierceness with which he stalks, and runs down the saints.
- ii. A lion has strength and ferocity -- The Lion does not roar for the pleasure he gets from the exercise; it is an expression of ravenous hunger, of fierce anger.¹
- iii. Satan is represented as transforming himself into an angel of light - 2 Cor. 11:14
- iv. But here he is described as a lion noting his power to intimidate and frighten

f. **Walketh about** =

- i. Ready to spring upon, and devour any wanderer
- ii. This was Satan's description of himself in Job 1:7, 2:2 "going to and fro on the earth" "walking up and down on it"
- iii. Satan does not wait for us to come his way; he is out looking for us.
- iv. We have an adversary intent upon destroying us.
- v. Satan is going about using every art and device which he has learned in all his thousands of years of experience tempting and destroying the human family.²

g. **Seeking** =

- i. Persistence with which he searches out his victims
- ii. This is the picture of a voracious lion on the prowl, stalking his victim whom he is eager to devour, is one that should keep Christians away.

h. **Devour** = to gulp down, or swallow, thus utterly to destroy

3. Satan is real -- not a myth. We had best believe he is out to destroy us, the cause we love, and the work we try to do. How successful has he been thus far with us? Will you be his Lunch ?

¹ALC Nov. 12, 1950 P. 277

²ALC Nov. 12, 1950 p. 277

Discussion

I. HOW THE LION GETS HIS LUNCH

A. The lion has learned how to kill his prey -- He looks for:

1. The Small - The Slow - The Sickly -- the diseased
2. The Stragglers - The Sleeping - The Injured -

B. As applied to those among us who could become the Lion's Lunch:

1. The Small -- would be the Young in the faith

- a. They would be new converts, new Christians.
- b. They are not experienced enough spiritually to escape Satan's snares. He is deceptive and tricky.
- c. One of the most dangerous times in our life is just after our conversion. The Devil is going to make an attempt to get us back into his fold if possible.
- d. I Peter 2:1-2; "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, 2. As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"
 - (1) Lay aside sin and insincere motives and bad mouth
 - (2) We must Grow - mature -- enlarge, expand
 - (3) We must desire the word -- so we can grow
 - (4) Then we get stronger and can resist
- e. We spend hours sometimes teaching people to become Christians
 - (1) Then see them devoured by Satan because they are just too young in the faith to know how to resist -- and we let it happen without much opposition.
 - (2) Mt. 28:18-20 -- v. 20a "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:..."

- (3) We have a responsibility to teach after baptism
- f. The young do not have to become the Devil's lunch!!
2. The Slow -- Not yet alert enough to avoid being misled by false doctrines
- a. Not all who are Christians will be strong enough to be able to take up the fight -- the shield of faith with which to quench Satan's fiery missiles.
 - b. They do not know the Bible well enough and can be easily lead into error or false doctrine.
 - c. Heb. 5:12-14 = unskillful in word
 - (1) Not matured - had enough time
 - (2) Remained as babes - nothing wrong with being a babe as long as you are growing
 - d. To avoid being a part of the Lion's Lunch we must be strong by being a partaker of meat.
3. The Sickly -- diseased = those Spiritually weak
- a. These are the Christians who are easily offended, ready to get mad, easy to get their feelings hurt
 - b. Paul gives instructions about how to deal with these:
 - (1) Romans 14; 15 "But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died."
 - (2) Those mature in the faith sometimes give up or make sacrifices for the weak.

- c. I Corinthians 3:1-3 "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 2. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. 3. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?"
 - d. We should treat the spiritually weak as we do our families when illness strikes them (care for them, cook for them, work for them, get their meals and medicine.)
 - e. We must help the spiritually weak to become strong.
4. The Stragglers -- wander away from the fellowship of the flock of God
- a. Cease to attend services - Do not read their Bible, cease to pray
 - b. Have no fellowship with other Christians
 - c. Lose contact with the Chief Shepherd
 - d. This group possibly represents the largest group of the menu Satan reviews constantly.
 - e. We must apply the principle of Luke 15:3-7. 1 lost sheep, seek and find
 - f. Restore the erring ones - Gal. 6:1-2 "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."
5. The Sleepers -- Those who are insensitive to dangers
- a. They see no danger in sin or false doctrine
 - b. Feel they are secure (I Corinthians 10:12). "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

- c. They have no concept of falling.
 - d. Paul's warning -- "Awake ---" (Romans 13:11). "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."
 - e. What would you do knowing your child was staying the night with your neighbor, you awake in the wee hours of the morning to see their house afire, a blazing inferno? (Apply Jude 22-23). "And of some have compassion, making a difference: 23. And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."
 - f. When one is about to become the Lion's lunch we must try to pull them away from the Devil.
6. The Injured -- Because of their injuries they are hurt / weak and unable to protect themselves
- a. Devour -
 - (1) GAL 5:15 "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another."
 - (2) Bite & Devour - tear each other apart, by gossip, unkind deeds, unkind words
 - (3) Consumed - - Dictionary 1st word is Devour
 - b. Devil is able to get these people to:
 - (1) Get angry - get mad - Use language that is sinful
 - (2) Take revenge - retaliate

- c. This hurts the injured - But it also hurts the church -- backsliders, hypocrites, fallen members are the Devil's best attack against the church
- d. The Lion is ready to devour those who are biting and devouring one another.

II. WHAT CAN BE DONE TO REMAIN OUT OF THE LION'S MOUTH?

A. 1 Pet. 5:9 "Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."

1. An admonition to faithful Christians who are never to yield to the devil in any way
2. Resist and withstand all attempts made by Satan - "antihistemi"
3. Withstand = is translated from the same Greek word as Resist in Jas. 4:7
4. JAS 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. **Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**"
5. The Christian is not to wait passively for the Lord to subdue Satan for him. He is to put up a fight, depending on the Lord for help. We are to oppose and resist the devil Jas.4:7 2Cor. 2:11 Eph.6:1ff
6. Be Firm in the faith - firm = that which is solid and strong
7. Peter assures his readers that they are not alone in such sufferings as they are enduring or will endure.³
 - a. All Christians need to realize that they are not alone in their sufferings.
 - b. There is great encouragement in knowing that one is not alone, that others are enduring the same suffering and yet remain true to God.⁴

³ P. 104 Letters of Peter and Jude Raymond C. Kelcy

⁴ P. 111 Things Pertaining to Life and Godliness - ETSOPM 87

B. Resist -- Steadfastly

1. No half-hearted resistance works. Fatal.
2. Satan is too strong for that
 - a. His "wiles" (Eph. 6:11) -- "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."
 - b. Wiles Defined by Vine, "craft, deceit, cunning device."
3. Remember, "the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak"
 - a. Mt. 26:41 "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak."
 - b. Rom. 7:15 "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I."

C. Steadfast "in the faith"

1. Faith is revealed truth (Jude 3; Acts 14:22).
 - a. Jude 3
 - b. Acts 14:22 "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."
2. Faith is not produced in fanciful dreams, visions, or experiences, but in a "thus saith the Lord." (I I Tim. 3:16-17; Rom. 10:17).

D. Trust in God -- He shut the mouth of the lion (Dan. 6:22)

1. Trust means active faith.

2. Note Heb. 11:32-33. "And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: 33. Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,"
3. Note I Cor. 10:13. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."
 - a. We are promised that God will guard us from the evil one - 2 Thes. 3:3
 - b. If He did not guard us in that he does not allow stronger trials than we are able to bear, we would all be devoured by this adversary.⁵

III. TWO EXAMPLES OF THE DEVIL NOT GETTING HIS LUNCH

A. Job Job 1 & 2

1. Satan was walking to and fro in the earth
2. Attempted to get Job to sin - Satan approached God and demanded the privilege of proving that Job was faithful for selfish reasons. You have blessed him, take these away and he will curse thee.
 - a. In Chapter 1 God gave permission to Satan to remove all the material blessings from Job.
 - b. But Job was not shaken -- Job 1:22 "In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly."

⁵ ALC Nov. 12,195 p. 277

- c. In Chapter 2 God gave permission for Satan to touch his flesh.
- d. But again Satan failed because "...In all this did not Job sin with his lips."
Job. 2:10b

3. Job refused to become the Lion's Lunch !!

B. Peter

1. LUKE 22:31 "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired [to have] you, that he may sift [you] as wheat:"
2. Sift = to riddle (fig.): - sift "Satan's request was made with the thought that the disciples would not be wheat but only strawy stuff that would remain in the sieve to be burned." ⁶
3. Satan is limited by God
4. But Satan desired to have Peter -- that is to have Peter under his control.
5. Why? Satan knew the potential of Peter and what could and did happen if he remained faithful. If he could get Peter then he would be able to nip Christianity in the bud.
6. But, thank God, he failed. ⁷

⁶ P. 1063 Interpretation of Luke's Gospel - Lenski

⁷ P.276-278 Studies in Luke ETSOPM 1988

C. Application:

1. We must not fall
2. God has much good that can be accomplished through us if we remain faithful and loyal to Him.
3. Will you become the Lion's Lunch or remain a servant of God?

CONCLUSION

1. Some seem to have the attitude: "Why be so concerned?" To which we reply, "Think about it -- How many of you ever heard of a lamb ever killing and devouring a lion? -- Does this suggest our need for help? We are the lambs -- 1 Pet. 5:8
2. Do not assume you are strong enough alone to resist the arch enemy of Christ.
 - a. Pride could make a devil's snack of you
 - b. I Cor. 10:12 "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."
3. We cannot have God's blessings and the fellowship of His saints until we become Christians and begin working together with others in the vineyard.
4. There are those who serve God out of a sincere love for Him.
5. Last word: Don't become the Devil's next lunch.

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