**LION SLAYER**

**JUDGES 14:1-9**

 I Peter 5:8-9, “*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:* 9 *Whom resist stedfast in the faith* (knowing your faith will not fail you)*, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*”

 Your adversary.

 You have an enemy.

 This is war.

**I. THE DANGER OF THE LION**

**A. IT CAME UNSOUGHT**

 Maybe Samson’s walk began like this.

 He was going down to Timnath to find a wife.

 The sun was *shining*, the flowers *blooming*, the birds *singing*; and look!

 A vineyard with lush, ripe grapes to eat on the way! He couldn’t have any, but his parents could.
 Suddenly he hears a roar that almost makes the ground under his feet *vibrate*, and turning, he sees this *muscular*, *tawny* beast charging at him with teeth *bared* and ready to tear him into *pieces*.

 The enemy’s plan can seem *loud* and *prolonged*.

 The enemy tries to induce a sustained sense of fear to compel a lack of faith and action.

 Sometimes the enemies roar can confuse us as to his *size* and *whereabouts*.

 Did you hear the story of the farmer that had a big pond on his farm?
 The frogs croaked so loud all night long. The frogs’ sound was so *obtrusive* and *offensive* on the farm. One night the farmer was eating at a restaurant. He over heard the owner discussing how hard it was to buy good fresh frog legs. He made a deal to provide the restaurant with 1,000 of frog legs a week.

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He had a pond full of them. They must be huge with all that intense volume of noise the frogs made. The next Friday night, the farmer brought one set of large frog legs, and 3 sets of little frog legs.

 The farmer had heard all that frog noise and he had jumped to the conclusion that there was a massive amount of frogs out there.
 You cannot judge a problem based on the noise produced.

 Satan will try to *lift up* his big ugly head to roar at you and try to intimidate you.
 YOU CANNOT CONTROL THE NOISE OR THE LIONS.

 He didn’t go *courting* danger.

 He didn’t go trying to *pick* a fight with a lion.

 He wasn’t *looking* for a lion.

 He wasn’t trying to *find out* how strong he was; he was just being lead by the Spirit.

 Being “*in God’s will*” does not *guarantee* freedom from assault by the adversary nor *secures* a painless passage through this life.

 It does not insulate or make us immune to “*the wiles of the devil*” (Eph. 6:11).

 Because one struggles with *pain*, *sorrow*, *disappointment* and *affliction* does not necessarily indicate that one has missed God’s will.

 He wasn’t like the 7 sons of Sceva looking for a devil to cast out.

 But the lion *challenged* him.

 It was kill or be killed.

 It was conquer or be conquered.

 C.H. Spurgeon said, “*The best evidence of God’s presence in your life is the devil’s growl.*”

 It doesn’t mean that God has forgotten you.

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 We read in the book of Samuel that the moment David was crowned at Hebron, “*all the Philistines came up to seek David;*”—II Samuel 5:17.

 The moment David should have been *relaxing*, and *enjoying* the privilege.

 And the moment we get anything *from* the Lord worth contending for, then the devil comes to seek us.

 Any time we attempt to do something *for* God, the devil will come.

 If the devil hasn’t fought you lately maybe it is because you don’t have anything from God, or have done anything for God.

 We have enough troubles without hoping to meet up with the devil.

**B. IT WAS UNEXPECTED**

 If he had known about it he probably would taken another path.

 This was a *pleasure* stroll he was on.

 He was looking for a lady, not a lion.

 You had better be careful what you seek for!

 You might find something else!

 In 1988 William “Bud” Post won $16.2 million in the Pennsylvania lottery. When he was interviewed recently he said, “*I wish it never happened. It was totally a nightmare,*”
 A former girlfriend successfully sued him for a share of his winnings, but that was not the only lawsuit. One of his brothers was arrested for hiring a hit man to kill him in hopes of inheriting his fortune.
 Other siblings pestered him until he agreed to invest in a car business and a restaurant in Sarasota, Fla., -- both of these business ventures brought no return for his money back and to make matters worse it further strained his relationship with his brothers and sisters.

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 Within a year of winning the lotto, Post was $1 million in debt and miserable. He even spent time in jail for firing a gun over the head of a bill collector.
 Post admitted he was both careless and foolish, trying to please his family. He eventually declared bankruptcy. Bud Post now lives quietly on $450 a month and food stamps.
 He says, “*I’m tired, I’m over 65 years old, and I just had a serious operation for a heart aneurysm. Lotteries don’t mean [anything] to me.*”

 We must always be ready for the *unexpected*.

 Martin Luther was asked how he overcame the devil, he replied, “Well, when he comes knocking at the door of my heart, and asks, ‘*Who lives here?*’ The dear Lord Jesus goes to the door and says, ‘*Martin Luther used to live here, but he moved out. Now I live here.*’ The devil seeing the nail-prints in the hands and the pierced side, takes flight immediately.”

 The devil doesn’t announce when he is going to come knocking.

 **What is he going to find?**

 Hard feelings? Worldliness?

 The Tempter comes when you least expect it.

 That is why we always have to be watching!

**II. THE DEFEAT OVER THE LION**

 Judges 14:6, “*And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.*”

**A. NOT A FLESHLY FIGHT**

 Take note again, that Samson had *nothing* in his hands.

 The Bible never says that the flesh wars against the flesh.

 The battle is always between the flesh and the Spirit.

 When we try to fight the flesh with the flesh, nothing really happens.

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 The dust gets all *stirred up*, and the fur *flies*, but when all is said and done, the lion gets up, *shakes* himself off and starts *roaring* again.
 That’s why so many of us go for so many years, fighting the same old battles, going through periods of being *wounded* and *absent* from the assembly; then coming in and saying, “*I’m getting better*” “*I haven’t done ‘such and such’ for a long time*”.

 And then having to fight the same old lions again; we’re trying to fight them in the flesh...using carnal weapons.

 Zechariah 4:7-8, “*Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.* 7 *Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.*”

 GOD’S SPIRIT IS OUR PREPARATION!

**B. IT IS A FIGHT OF FAITH**

 I Peter 5:9, “…*Whom resist stedfast in the faith*”

 He is strong, but this is the victory that overcometh, even our faith.

 Faith is strong because it lays *hold* upon God.

 When Satan comes knocking, just *show* him our better half.

 When you are drowning, you become strong by laying hold of the life rope.

 Faith sets the *stronger* Lion of the Tribe of Judah, against this *roaring* lion of the bottomless pit.

 The *delivering* Lion against the *devouring* lion.

**C. IT IS A FIGHT WE MUST FIGHT**

 Samson was not a spectator, but a participator.

 “*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*”—James 4:7.

 Resist him like poison.

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 If an animal drinks *antifreeze*, though it tastes sweet, it will kill them.

 The devil is going to come with his full arsenal, but hold onto God.

 Samson might have *jumped back* at first, but he held the fort and he didn’t run away.

**D. IT WASN’T A FEEBLE FELINE**

 It was a young lion.

 Samson killed it while it was young before it was totally mature.

 The best way to get rid of sin and to be victorious is to get rid of it while it is an acorn, and not a full grown oak tree.

 Song of Solomon 2:15, “*Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.*”

 A little skunk makes a big smell.

 Little rattlesnakes have the strongest poison.

 A pastor (Greg Bond) had a cat that if left outside for a few days it would revert to its wild state again.

 Satan loves to play the pussy cat and tries to *cuddle* and *meow*.

 Samson wasn’t trying to be a lion-tamer.

 You had better kill the lion while it is still young.

 If Samson wouldn’t have killed it, the next time it would have been bigger and harder to kill.

 If David wouldn’t have killed his *lion*, he would have never been victorious over the bear and Goliath.

 We will never have the privilege to fight in the big battles if we can’t make it in the small ones.

 God will never use us in big things, if we can’t do the little things.

 David was great because he destroyed his enemies.

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**III. THE DELICACY IN THE LION**

 Judges 14:8-9, “*And after a time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcase of the lion: and, behold, there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcase of the lion.* 9 *And he took thereof in his hands, and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and he gave them, and they did eat: but he told not them that he had taken the honey out of the carcase of the lion.*”

 That honey was so sweet, because it was in the carcass of his enemy.

 Trials make the promise sweeter.

 The *harder* the battle, the *greater* the victory celebration.

 If Hell wasn’t so bad Heaven wouldn’t be so great.

 Psalm 81:15-16, “*The haters of the LORD should have submitted themselves unto him: but their time should have endured for ever.* 16 *He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee.*”

 I Samuel 14:27, “*But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath: wherefore he put forth the end of the rod that was in his hand, and dipped it in an honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened.*”

 Jonathon had just miraculously smitten the Philistine garrison.

 We need our eyes *enlightened* to the Word of God and the Spirit of God.

 Jonathon’s *weariness* went away.

 Job enjoyed a double-portion because he was victorious.

 What was bitter and could have brought death to the man of God became a food source.

 This thing that meant death, ended up *yielding* life and strength to him.

 Sometimes the worse thing that could happen to us can be the best thing!

 God can bring good out of your trial!

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 That battle might bring the best out of you!

 Hero’s are made in the worst of battles!

 Notice his riddle, “*Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness. And they could not in three days expound the riddle.*”—Judges 14:14.

 **Out of** the *circumstance*, *situation*, *person*, or *event* that tries to “eat you alive” God can create something sweet and refreshing that can renew your *strength* and *hope*.

**CON:**

 By the help of the Lord you can slay that lion!

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