

THE LION'S PREY

Texts: 1 Kings 13:22-24; 1 Peter 5:8-9

INTRO: The disobedient prophet died at the paw of the lion. But there was more than one lion at work that day. The "lion" that did the most damage was not the one that tore his body, but the one who preyed upon his soul.

Peter knew what it was to be the prey of the lion. Satan had desired to possess Peter, LK 22:31. For a brief time, the devil had Peter just where he wanted him. Peter learned that we are never too strong for the devil to find our weakness. We must always be on guard. He warns his readers that the devil never rests, but is always on the prowl. All of us are potential prey. Let us note some who are especially vulnerable.

I. THOSE WHO ARE ALONE, SEPARATED FROM THE FLOCK.

A. A lion usually works on the periphery of the flock. He is patient & cunning. He waits for the sheep who drifts away from the flock--& then pounces.

B. Those in most immediate danger are those who are:

1. More concerned or curious about things outside the flock than inside the flock. Acts 2:41-47

2. Caught up in worldly matters; those with little or no association with brethren.

Confess your trespasses to one another & pray for one another... The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. (JS 5:16).

3. Those who are infrequent in attendance at assemblies, which could have helped to strengthen them & alert them to danger.

READ HEBREWS 10:24-26

II. THOSE WHO ARE WEAK.

A. Healthy animals are more observant, more energetic, harder to catch. The weak are in imminent danger.

B. Some are weak from lack of nourishment.

As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word

that you may grow thereby (2 Pet 2:2). MATT 5:6

- C. Some have not properly exercised themselves.

READ HEBREWS 5:12-14

...Exercise yourself toward godliness (1 Tim 4:7).

- D. The diseased. The world's #1 killer is sin. Unless we turn to the Great Physician for healing, sin will destroy us.

READ JAMES 1:14-15

III. THOSE WHO ARE SLOW.

- A. The quick; the fleet of foot, can sometimes elude the lion, but the slow are much more susceptible to his advances.

- B. Some are slow because they carry excess baggage. They are weighed down by sin & encumbered by weights that hinder their progress. Heb 12:1.

Be not lagging in diligence, [be] fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. (Rom 12:11).

READ LUKE 8:12-14

IV. THOSE WHO GET CARELESS.

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall (1 Cor 10:12).

- A. It can happen to preachers, 1 Cor 9:27.

- B. It can happen to elders, Acts 20:29-31

- C. It can happen to you, 1 Pet 5:8-9.

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. (1 Cor 16:13).

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