

Scripture Reading: I Peter 5:6-11

THE LION IS ROARING

Introduction: One of the most terrifying experiences in life is to become the hunted instead of the hunter.

Suppose that you were enjoying a wonderful vacation in a wilderness area of the Northwest United States. One especially beautiful day you decide to take a hike. The scenery is breathtaking and you pause along the way to snap a few pictures and take in the beauty of it all.

As you walk the trail, you come to an overlook where you can see for miles down through the valley below. From your perch you can also see about 200 yards or so of the trail you just came up. You decide to sit on a rock and forget about all the busyness of life while taking in all the beauty that surrounds you.

As you sit there relaxed as you've ever been, feeling "stress free", you're startled by what you see slowly but surely making its way up the trail. Your eyes are fixed on a mountain lion with its nose to the ground sneaking along the very trail you just walked. The animal is obviously trailing you and you suddenly realize that you are being stalked and hunted. You now realize you're in serious danger.

Not too good a feeling is it? The moment you realized the mountain lion was hunting you what thoughts ran through your mind? Instead of the hunter you became the hunted.

I. WHAT THE WORD OF GOD TELLS US.

- A. Peter wrote in **I Peter 5:8**, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."
- i. When a lion is hunting he roars.
 - ii. The devil is like a roaring lion on the hunt.
 - iii. You and I are the menu.
- B. **Job 1:7-9** records a conversation between God and Satan.
- i. God asked Satan, "Where have you been?"
 - ii. Satan replied, "Roaming the earth and walking around on it."
 - iii. God asked Satan, "Did you notice Job? There is no one on earth like him. He is a blameless and upright man who reverences me and turns away from evil."
 - iv. Satan answered Jesus and said that he did notice him and that the only reason Job was reverent is because it benefited him physically.
 - v. I want you to notice one thing particularly from this set of scriptures.
 1. Satan was walking to and fro on this earth and taking note of people
 2. Friends, the lion was hunting!

II. GOOD VERSUS EVIL

- A. Does all good have its origin in God?
- i. Is God the source of everything good that happens?
 - ii. I think most of us would say yes.
 1. That's why we pray about things happening in the world around us.
 2. That's why we pray for foreign mission work

3. That's why we pray for special needs and special situations anywhere in the world.
4. That's why we pray for other people and other congregations.
- iii. We pray for things happening in our world because we believe God is the source of all good and that He coordinates all good within our world.

B. Does all evil have its origin in Satan?

- i. Worldwide does Satan coordinate all the evil happening in our world?
- ii. Do you see all forms of evil as the coordinated activity of Satan, or do you believe these are all just random acts of evil and accidental occurrences?
 1. First of all, no evil happens accidentally
 2. All evil in all forms is the deliberate act of the great deceiver and father of lies.
- iii. Evil is linked like an endless coil of chain.
 1. Evil in our world encourages and nurtures evil in our nation
 2. Evil in our nation encourages and nurtures evil in our society
 3. Evil in our society encourages and nurtures evil in our community
 4. Evil in our community encourages and nurtures evil in our families
 5. Evil in our families encourages and nurtures evil husbands, wives, and teenagers.
 6. Evil in the immediate family encourages and nurtures evil in me and you.
- iv. One of the truly frightening things about evil is the realization that the evil that exists in each of us encourages and nurtures the evil I someone else.

III. NO ONE CAN BE FREE FROM ALL EVIL, BUT NONE OF US NEED TO BE HELPLESS VICTIMS.

- A. The first powerful form of help that can deliver us from the slavery of evil is forgiveness in Christ.
- i. Regarding forgiveness, John wrote these two statements to Christians:
 1. ***1 John 1:7***, "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."
 2. ***1 John 1:9***, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"
 - ii. We of ourselves are not capable of eliminating evil from our lives.
 - iii. If we are in Christ, God readily forgives us of all evil as long as we are committed to living a Godly life and are willing to confess our mistakes to God.
- B. The second powerful form of help that can deliver us from the clutches of evil is genuine, earnest resistance.
- i. James told Christians in ***James 4:7-8***, "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded."
 1. God's part is forgiveness and my part is submission to God.
 2. Before God can come close to me, I must first choose to be close to God.
 3. Satan refuses to stay where he is not wanted.
 - a. If we fight him, God will not let him control our lives.
 - b. This doesn't mean he will stop tempting us.
 - c. And when we yield to temptation all we do is give Satan an open invitation to come wreak havoc on our lives.
 - d. It's a package deal:
 - i. I either submit to God and resist Satan

ii. Or I submit to Satan and resist God.

IV. **THINK VERY SERIOUS ABOUT RESISTING SATAN.**

A. If you or I choose to resist Satan, we must know him to resist him.

B. Consider the obvious with me:

- i. You cannot live your life by Satan's standards and rules and resist him
- ii. You cannot love what Satan tells you to love and resist him
- iii. You cannot look at life through Satan's eyes and resist him
- iv. You cannot form your concepts on the basis of Satan's perspectives and resist him
- v. You cannot let Satan define your Christian concepts and resist him.
 1. You don't resist Satan by using his definition of repentance.
 2. You do not resist Satan by using his definition of conversion, commitment, or faith.
 3. You cannot resist Satan by letting him define what loving God is.

C. If you're serious about resisting Satan and evil in your life:

- i. You let God define holiness and righteousness and live by His definition.
- ii. You let God define purity, good, and evil and live by His definitions.
- iii. You let God define repentance, obedience, faith, and love, and you let His definitions become the concepts that direct your life.

This week if you've watched the news and seen all the evil going on in the world, you heard the lion roaring!

This week if you read the *Tennessean*, then you heard the lion roaring!

This week if you read the arrest reports in the local paper, then you heard the lion roaring!

This week in our congregation, did you hear the lion roaring?

This week in your family, did you hear the lion roaring?

This week in your life, did you hear the lion roaring?

- ❖ Satan knows me and you personally.
 - He is hungry for each of us.
 - He will swallow us whole and keep on prowling.
 - You can be certain he will not be satisfied just to swallow us.
- ❖ Unless we resist him and submit to God, Satan will swallow this congregation.
 - He will swallow the people we love and he will swallow our children.
 - Rest assured friends, unless we resist him, he will accept the invitation to eat with us.
 - When we invite Satan for a fellowship meal, we are on the menu.
- ❖ Every waking moment of your life Satan is on the hunt for you.
 - He's looking for opportunity to destroy you.
 - That would be horrible if there was no deliverance in Christ Jesus.

Never did Satan roar louder than he in the 24 hours before the crucifixion of Jesus. When Jesus was raised from the dead and destroyed Satan's power to destroy your life.

DO YOU HEAR IT? SHH, SHH, LISTEN CLOSELY FRIENDS; HE'S WALKING TO AND FRO. HE'S ROARING, AND HE'S HUNTING.

“FEAR NOT” OUR SAVIOR SAYS. JESUS PROVIDES REFUGE FROM THE HUNTER.

WILL YOU TAKE REFUGE IN JESUS THIS DAY?

WILL YOU TAKE HEED TO THE WARNINGS GIVEN US IN THE WORD OF GOD?

INVITATION: PLAN OF SALVATION

HEAR: **Romans 10:17**

BELIEVE: **John 8:25**

REPENT: **Luke 13:3**

CONFESS: **Matthew 10:32-33**

BE BAPTIZED AS COMMANDED BY THE SCRIPTURES: **Mark 16:16**

If you're a Christian that's fallen away there's a country song with the lyrics, *“if you're walking through hell you better get, you might get out before the devil even knows you there, face that fire walk right through it.”*

Friends, life is sometimes tough for Christians in 2008, you might have fallen away for some reason or another and might even feel like there's no way out. Believe me when I make this statement—the devil knows your name and you'll never walk through that fire alone without God.

Come back to Him today. Resist Satan and submit to God

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