



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
NINILCHIK

SUNDAY YOUNG PEOPLE'S READING

The HOLY WAR

Made by Shaddai Upon Diabulous for the
Regaining of the Metropolis of the World
or

The Losing and Taking Again of the
Town of Mansoul

by John Bunyan

Retold in Modern English
by Jon Cardwell

October 10th, 2021

(Episode 25)

"I have given symbols..." Hosea 12:10

Then said old Incredulity, "Sir, if I live, I will take your message to Diabulous, and there you shall have an answer to your words. Meanwhile we will seek the good of the town, and not ask counsel of you."

"Sir," said Understanding, "both you and your prince are not natives to Mansoul, but foreigners. When difficulties arise, and when you also shall see that you can find safety by no other means than to run away, how do we know you won't try to save yourselves by leaving us, or set us on fire and go away in the smoke or by the light of our burning, and so leave us in our own ruins?"

"Sir," responded old Incredulity, "you forget that you are under a governor, and that you ought to humble yourself as one subject to authority. Don't you realize that when my lord, the king, hears of this day's work, he will not be too pleased with your labor?"

Now while these gentlemen rebuked one another, the Lord Willbewill, Mr. Prejudice, and old Ill-Pause, came down from the walls and gates of the town, as well as several of the new-made aldermen and burgesses. They asked the reason for all the hubbub and turmoil; and with that, every man began to tell his own tale, so nothing could be heard distinctly.

Silence was commanded, and that old fox, Incredulity, began to speak. "My lord," he said to the Lord Willbewill, "here are a couple of peevish gentlemen who have, as a fruit of their bad dispositions, and, as I fear, through the advice of one Mr. Discontent, tumultuously gathered this company against me today, and also attempted to stir the town up with acts of rebellion against our prince."

All the Diabolonians present stood up and affirmed Incredulity's words to be true.

Now when those who took part with my Lord Understanding and with Mr. Conscience perceived they were likely come to the worst, for all the force and power were on the other side, they came to their help and relief; so a great company was on both sides. Then those on Incredulity's side would have sent the two old gentlemen immediately away to prison; but those on the other side said they should not. Then both groups began to cry out like parties on two distinct sides: the Diabolonians cried up old Incredulity, Forget-Good, the new aldermen, and their great one Diabulous; and the other party, they as just as quickly cried up Shaddai, the captains, His laws, their mercifulness, and applauded their conditions and ways. They bickered back and forth for awhile; and at last they passed

from words to blows, until there were injuries on both sides. The good old gentleman, Mr. Conscience, was knocked down twice by one of the Diabolonians, whose name was Mr. Benumbing; and my Lord Understanding was nearly slain with a shot of liquor, but he who shot missed the mark with poor aim. Nor did the other side wholly escape; for there was one Mr. Rashhead, a Diabolonian, that had his brains beaten out by Mr. Mind, the Lord Willbewill's servant; and it made me laugh to see how old Mr. Prejudice was kicked, and tumbled about in the dirt—for though, a while since, he was made captain of a company of the Diabolonians, to the hurt and damage of the town, yet now they had got him under their feet, and, I'll assure you, he had, by some of the Lord Understanding's party, his crown cracked to boot. Moreover, Mr. Anything became a lively man in a tumult; but both sides were against him because he was true to none. Yet he had one of his legs broken because of his immoral practices, and he that did it wished it had been his neck. Much more harm was done on both sides, but this must not be forgotten: it was now a wonder to see my Lord Willbewill so indifferent as he was, as he did not seem to favor one side more than another. In fact, some perceived a smile on his face to see how old Prejudice had tumbled around in the dirt. Also, when Captain Anything came halting up before him, he seemed to take little notice of him.

Now, when the uproar was over, Diabulous sent for my Lord Understanding and Mr. Conscience, and cast them both into prison as the ringleaders and managers of this most heavy, riotous disturbance in Mansoul. Now, the town was quiet again, and the prisoners were oppressed. Yes, he thought to have done away with them, but it would not serve his purposes at this time; for the war was in all their gates.

But let us return again to our story. The captains, when they left the gate, and had returned to camp again, called a council of war, to consider what further they must do....

To Be Continued...

For Your Consideration:

Review:

What does the town of Mansoul represent?

Who is King Shaddai?

Who is the giant, Diabolous?

What is an allegory?

From the first few episodes, what truths in the Bible does Mr. Bunyan's allegorical story represent?

Today's Episode:

There was "a great company on both sides" —two groups, those of the Diabolonians and those who sided with Lord Understanding and Mr. Conscience. An argument turned into a fight between them. What do you suppose this conflict represents. Read Galatians 5:17 and James 4:1 to help you with your answer.

Captain Anything first appeared in Episode 21, when Messrs. Tradition and Human Wisdom were captured from Shaddai's armies, they became traitors, and were placed under the charge of Captain Anything. The captain "was true to none." What does this mean? Consider the person, Pliable, in *The Pilgrim's Progress*. How is Captain Anything like Pliable? How is he not?

The Lord Willbewill, in his rebellion against Shaddai and his position under Diabolous, he was fickle, and like the old saying, "Whatever will be will be" (read Zephaniah 3:4 & Ephesians 4:14 to consider the kind of character he possessed). After the riot, was "indifferent" and "did not seem to favor one side more than another." What did this mean? Read Psalm 119:36 and Philippians 2:13 to discover the beginnings of what may be happening to the Lord Willbewill here.