



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

December 11th, 2022

(Episode 58)

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

[Mansoul had departed from their former way of visiting Prince Emmanuel; and the good Prince returned to His Father's court until Mansoul repented, considering and acknowledging her offense. The Prince left because Mansoul turned away from Him, as was manifested in these particulars:]

1. They departed from their former way of visiting Him; they came not to His royal palace as before.
2. They did not regard, nor yet take notice, that He came or came not to visit them.
3. The love-feasts that had been the custom between their Prince and them, though He still prepared the feasts and called them to come, yet they neglected to come to them, or to be delighted with them.
4. They did not wait for His counsels, but began to be headstrong and confident in themselves, concluding that now they were strong and invincible, and that Mansoul was secure and beyond all reach of the foe; that her condition was forever unchangeable.

Now, as was said, Emmanuel perceiving that by Mr. Carnal-Security's cunning skill, the town of Mansoul had stopped depending upon Him, and upon His Father by Him, and instead, trusted upon the graces and blessings bestowed upon them by the Prince and His Father. The Prince first, as I said, wept over their condition. Then, He used means [of heavenly grace] to make them understand that the way they went about was dangerous: for He sent my Lord High Secretary to them, to forbid them such ways; but twice when he came to them, he found them feasting in Mr. Carnal-Security's dining room. Perceiving that they were not willing to reason about matters concerning their good, my Lord High Secretary went his way, grieving; the which when he had told the Prince Emmanuel of all he had witnessed, the Prince took offence, and was grieved also. Thus, He made provision to return to His Father's court.

Now, the methods of His withdrawing, as I was saying before, were thus:

1. While He was with them in Mansoul, He kept Himself close; but now, He was more retired and withdrawn than previously.
2. When He appeared in their company, His speech was not as pleasant to them and familiar with them as it had been formerly.
3. Nor did He send to Mansoul those tasty morsels from His table, which He was in the habit of doing in times past.

4. Nor when they came to visit Him, as now and then they might, would He be so easily spoken with as they found Him to be in times past. They might now knock once, yes, even twice, but He would seem not at all to regard them; whereas formerly at the sound of their feet He would jump up and run, meeting them halfway, and take them, too, and lay them in His bosom.

But this is how Emmanuel conducted Himself now, and by His behavior, He sought to make Mansoul think carefully and return to Him. But, alas! They did not consider. They did not know His ways. They regarded not. They were not touched with these, neither with the true remembrance of former favors. Therefore, what does the Prince do but, in private manner, withdraw Himself? First from His palace, then to the gate of the town, and so away from Mansoul He went, until they should acknowledge their offence, and more earnestly seek His face (Hos 5:15). Mr. God's-Peace also laid down his commission, and would for the present act no longer in the town of Mansoul (Ezek 11:21).

Thus they walked contrary to Him, and He again, by way of retaliation, walked contrary to them (Lev 26:21-24). But, alas! By this time they were so hardened in their way, and had so drunk in the doctrine of Mr. Carnal-Security, that their Prince's departing didn't even faze them, nor did they remember Him when He was gone; and so, of consequence, they were not grieved by His absence (Jer 2:32).

Now, there was a day when this old gentleman, Mr. Carnal-Security, again made a feast for the town of Mansoul. There was also at that time in the town one Mr. Godly-Fear, one who was somewhat rejected now, though formerly one of great desire and in great demand. This man, old Carnal-Security, had a mind, if possible, to cheat, corrupt, and misuse, just as he did the rest of Mansoul's inhabitants, and therefore he invited Mr. Godly-Fear to the feast with his neighbors. So when the day had come, they all prepared and he went and appeared with the rest of the guests. The table was all set. They ate and drank and were merry; all except this one man. Mr. Godly-Fear sat like a stranger and neither ate nor was merry. When Mr. Carnal-Security perceived such, he immediately addressed himself in a speech thus to him:

"Mr. Godly-Fear," said Carnal-Security, "are you not well? You seem to be ill of body or mind, or both. I have a cordial of Mr. Forget-Good's making, the which, sir, if you will take a small sip, I hope it may make you merry and mirthful; making you more fit for us, your feasting companions."

Unto whom the good old gentleman discreetly replied, “Sir, I thank you for all things courteous and civil; but for your cordial I have no leaning or inclination. But a word to the natives of Mansoul— you, the elders and chief of Mansoul, to me it is strange to see you so jocular and merry, when the town of Mansoul is in such woeful condition.”

Then said Mr. Carnal-Security, “You lack sleep, good sir, I doubt. If you please, lie down and take a nap, and we meanwhile will be merry.”

Then said the good man as follows: “Sir, if you were not destitute of an honest heart, you could not do as you have done, and do.”

Then said Mr. Carnal-Security, “Why?”

“Nay, please don’t interrupt me,” said Mr. Godly-Fear. “It is true the town of Mansoul was strong, and, with a proviso, impregnable; but you, the townsmen, have weakened it, and it now lies obnoxious to its foes. This is not a time to flatter or be silent. It is you, Mr. Carnal-Security, who has wilily stripped Mansoul, and driven her glory from her. You have pulled down her towers. You have broken down her gates. You have spoiled her locks and bars.

“And now, to explain myself,” Mr. Godly-Fear continued, “from the time my lords of Mansoul, and you, sir, grew so great, the Strength of Mansoul had been offended, and now He has arisen and has gone. If any shall question the truth of my words, I will answer him by this, and suchlike questions: ‘Where is Prince Emmanuel? When did a man or woman in Mansoul see Him? When did you hear from Him or taste any of His delicious morsels?’ You are now feasting with this Diabolonian monster, but he is not your prince. I say, therefore, had you taken heed, though enemies from outside could not have made a prey of you, yet since you have sinned against your Prince, your enemies within have been too hard for you.”

Then said Mr. Carnal-Security, “Fie! fie! Mr. Godly-Fear. Again, I say, Bah! Humbug! Will you never shake off your timid doubts and beliefs? Are you afraid of being aroused by a sparrow’s tweet as if someone blasted a trumpet in your ear? Who has hurt you? Behold, I am on your side; only you want to doubt while I am for being confident. Besides, is this a time for sadness? A feast is made for mirth; why, then, do you now, to your shame and our trouble, break out into such passionate, melancholy language when you should eat, drink, and be merry?”

Then said Mr. Godly-Fear again,

To Be Continued....