



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

August 29th, 2021

(Episode 21)

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

Then, Diabulous sent for the prisoners, Mr. Tradition, Mr. Human Wisdom, and Mr. Man's Invention, and when they had come, the giant demanded of them who they were, from where they came, and what they did in the camp of Shaddai; and they told him. Then he returned them to confinement. Not many days after, he sent for them again, and then asked them if they would be willing to serve him against their former captains. They then told him that they did not so much live by religion as by the fates of fortune; and that since his lordship was willing to entertain them, they should be willing to serve him. Now while things were thus in hand, there was one Captain Anything, a great doer in the town of Mansoul; and Diabulous sent these men to this Captain Anything, with a note under the hand of one of them, instructing the captain to receive them into his company, the contents of which letter were thus:

“Anything, my darling— the three men who bear this letter have a desire to serve me in the war. I know of no one better into whose conduct to commit them than to yours. Receive them, therefore, in my name, and, as need shall require, make use of them against Shaddai and his men. Farewell.”

So they came, and he received them. Captain Anything made two of them sergeants; but he made Mr. Man's Invention his armor-bearer. But thus much for this, and now to return to the camp.

Those from Shaddai's camp also executed action upon the town, for they beat down the roof of the Lord Mayor's house, and in doing so, caused him to be more exposed and vulnerable than he was before. With a sling, they almost slew my Lord Willbewill outright; but he sought methods of safety in order to recover again. Nevertheless, Shaddai's army made a notable slaughter among the aldermen, for with only one shot, they cut off six of them; to wit, Mr. Swearing, Mr. Promiscuity, Mr. Fury, Mr. Stand-to-lies, Mr. Drunkenness, and Mr. Cheating.

Shaddai's army also rendered useless the two guns that stood upon the tower over Ear-gate, and laid them flat in the dirt. I told you before that the King's noble captains had drawn off to their winter quarters, and had entrenched themselves there with their carriages, so as with the best advantage to their King, and the greatest annoyance to the enemy, they might give seasonable and warm alarms to the town of Mansoul. And their plan hit the town so hard that, I may say, they did almost anything they

wanted in molesting the rebellious corporation. Because of that, Mansoul could not sleep as securely as before, nor could they now go quietly to their debaucheries as in times past; for they received from Shaddai's camp such frequent, warm, and terrifying alarms, yes, even alarms upon alarms, first at one gate and then at another, and again at all the gates at once, that their former peace was disrupted. Yes, they were awakened to their alarms so frequently, and that when the nights were longest, the weather coldest, and so consequently the season most unseasonable, the winter was to the town of Mansoul a winter by itself. Sometimes the trumpets would sound, and sometimes the slings would whirl the stones into the town. Sometimes ten thousand of the King's soldiers would run around the walls of Mansoul at midnight, shouting and lifting up their voice for the battle. Sometimes, again, some of them in the town would be wounded, and their cry and lamentable voice would be heard, to the great molestation of the now languishing town of Mansoul. Yes, they were so distressed by those who laid siege against them that, I dare say, Diabulous, their king, could hardly rest in those days.

In these days, as I was informed, new thoughts, and thoughts that began to run contrary to one another, began to possess the minds of the men of the town of Mansoul. Some would say, "We cannot live like this." Others would then reply, "This will be over shortly." Then a third would stand up and answer, "Let us turn to King Shaddai, and so put an end to these troubles." And a fourth would come in with fear, saying, "I doubt He will not receive us." The old gentleman, too, who was the Recorder before Diabulous took Mansoul, also began to talk aloud, and his words were now to the town of Mansoul as if they were great claps of thunder. No noise now was as terrible to Mansoul as his, especially when accompanied by the noise of the soldiers and shoutings from the captains.

Also things began to grow scarce in Mansoul; now the things her soul lusted after were departing from her. Upon all her pleasant things were a blast and a blight, and burning instead of beauty. The inhabitants of Mansoul had wrinkles now, and some evidence of the shadow of death. O how glad would Mansoul have been to have enjoyed quietness and satisfaction of mind, though now joined with the most contemptible condition in the world!

To Be Continued...

For Your Consideration

Review:

What does the town of Mansoul represent?

Who is King Shaddai?

Who is the giant, Diabulous?

What is an allegory?

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

Today's Episode:

Consider how the prisoners, Mr. Tradition, Mr. Human Wisdom, and Mr. Man's Invention, were so quick to change sides and serve Diabulous in the first paragraph. Why do you suppose they were so easily turned to serve the giant? Does the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ need such turncoats?

Read Colossians 2:8 and 1 Corinthians 2:5 and explain why Mr. Tradition and Mr. Human Wisdom are sergeants for Captain Anything.

The word, "invention" in the KJV may be translated "deeds" or "scheme" in the NKJV or ESV. Read Psalm 99:8 and Ecclesiastes 7:29 to explain why Mr. Man's Invention was made Captain Anything's armor-bearer.

What do think about Captain Anything? What kind of personality do you think he possessed if he was given charge of these three traitors? A little later in the story we will read: "Moreover, Mr. Anything became a lively man in a tumult; but both sides were against him because he was true to none." What does this tell you about him?