



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

May 28th, 2023
(Episode 70)

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

[After Diabulous attempted to convince Mansoul to submit to him via his heralds, the drummer and Captain Sepulcher, he continued to camp outside the walls of Mansoul with his army of Doubters. Mansoul had appealed to the Lord Secretary, but had to continue to lean upon Emmanuel's gospel captains for strength and comfort.] So all in Mansoul armed themselves immediately and went to their places— the captains to theirs, the Lord Mayor to his, the subordinate preacher to his, and my Lord Willbewill to his. The captains longed to be at some work for their prince; for they delighted in warlike achievements. The next day, therefore, they came together and conferred. After their conference, they resolved to give an answer to the captain of Diabulous with slings, which they did at the rising of the sun on the morrow; for Diabulous had ventured to come nearer again, but the sling-stones were like hornets to him. Just as there was nothing as terrifying to the town of Mansoul as the roaring of Diabulous's drum, there was likewise nothing as terrible to Diabulous as Emmanuel's slings well-played. Therefore Diabulous was forced to make another retreat, even further off from the famous town of Mansoul. At his retreat, the Lord Mayor of Mansoul caused the bells to be rung and that thanks should be sent to the Lord High Secretary by the mouth of the subordinate preacher; for by his words the captains and elders of Mansoul had been strengthened against Diabulous.

When Diabulous saw that his captains and soldiers, high lords of renowned, were frightened and beaten down by the stones that came from the golden slings of the Prince of the town of Mansoul, he thought to himself, "I will try to catch them by fawning; I will try to flatter them into my net" (Rev 12:10).

Therefore, after a while, he came down again to the wall; this time without his drum, nor with Captain Sepulcher, but having sugared his lips, he seemed to be a very sweet-mouthed, peaceable prince, scheming nothing for humor's sake, nor for any vengeance upon Mansoul for injuries he suffered by them. He fawningly explained that his only plan was for Mansoul's welfare, and good, and for the advantage of the town and people therein. Therefore, after he called for audience, and desired the townsfolk to give him such, he proceeded in his oration: And said, "O! the desire of my heart, the famous town of Mansoul! How many nights have I watched, and how many weary steps have I taken, if perhaps I might do you good" (1 Pet 5:8). "Far be it, far be it from me to desire to go to war with you; if you would just be willing to quietly deliver yourselves unto me. You know that you were mine of old" (Matt

4:8-9; Luke 4:6-7). “Remember also, that as long as you enjoyed me as your lord, and that I enjoyed you as my subjects, you lacked for nothing of all the delights of the earth, that I, your lord and prince, could get for you; or that I could fabricate such for your joy and cheer. Consider, you never had so many hard, dark, troublesome, and heart-afflicting hours while you were mine, as you have had since you revolted against me; nor shall you ever have peace again until you and I become one as before. Only be persuaded to embrace me again and I will grant, yes, enlarge your old charter with abundance of privileges; so that your license and liberty shall be to take, hold, enjoy, and make all that is pleasant from the east to the west your own. Nor shall you ever be charged with any of those incivilities by which you have offended me, so long as the sun and moon endure. Nor shall you ever be harmed by any of those dear friends of mine who, for fear of you, now lie lurking in dens, and holes, and caves in Mansoul; yes, they shall be your servants and shall minister unto you of their substance, and of whatever shall come to hand. I need speak no more. You know them and have some time since been delighted greatly in their company. Why, then, should we abide at such odds? Let us renew our old acquaintance and friendship again. [**Take Heed Mansoul!**]

“Bear with your friend,” he continued. “I take the liberty at this time to speak freely to you. The love I have for you presses me to do it, as also does the zeal of my heart for my friends with you. Therefore, don’t put me to further trouble, nor yourselves to further fears and frights. I will have you, whether by war or peaceful means. Don’t flatter yourselves with the power and force of your captains, or by thinking Emmanuel will shortly to come help you; for such strength will do you no pleasure.

“I’ve come against you with a stout and valiant army, and all the chief princes of the den are even at the head of it. Besides, my captains are swifter than eagles, stronger than lions, and greedier of prey than are the evening wolves. What is Og of Bashan! What is Goliath of Gath! And what is a hundred more of them to one of the least of my captains! How, then, shall Mansoul think to escape my hand and force?”

Diabulous having thus handed his flattering, fawning, deceitful, and lying speech to the famous town of Mansoul, the Lord Mayor replied to him as follows: “O Diabulous, prince of darkness, and master of all deceit; we have had your lying flatteries and made sufficient probation of them and have tasted too deeply of that destructive cup already. If we should therefore hearken unto you again, breaking our great Shaddai’s commandments by joining in likeness with you, would not our Prince

reject us, and cast us off forever? And, being cast off by Him, can the place He has prepared for you be a place of rest for us? Besides, O you who are empty and void of all truth, we are rather ready to die by your hand than to fall in with your flattering and lying deceits.”

When the tyrant saw that there was little advantage by parleying with my Lord Mayor, he fell into a hellish rage and resolved that again, with his army of Doubters, he would assault the town of Mansoul another time.

So he called for his drummer, who beat for his men to be in a readiness to give battle to the corporation (and while he drummed, Mansoul trembled). Then Diabulous drew near with his army, and thus disposed of his men. Captain Cruel and Captain Torment, these he drew up and placed against Feel-gate, commanding them to sit there for the war. And he also appointed, that if need arose, Captain No-Ease should come in as their relief. At Nose-gate he placed Captain Brimstone and Captain Sepulcher, and bid them look well to their ward, on that side of the town of Mansoul. But at Eye-gate he placed that grim-faced one, Captain Past-Hope; and there also he had set up his terrible standard.

Now Captain Insatiable, he was to look after Diabulous’s conquests, and was also appointed to take into custody of those persons and things that should at any time be taken from the enemy as prey.

Now the inhabitants of Mansoul kept Mouth-gate for a fortified passage, called a sally-port. This is the reason they kept strong; for it was through Mouth-gate by which the townsfolk sent their petitions to Emmanuel, their Prince. This was also the gate from the top of which the captains used their slings against the enemies; for that gate stood somewhat ascending, so that the placing of them there, and the letting of them fly from that place, accomplished much against the tyrant’s army. Therefore, for these causes, with others, Diabulous sought, if possible, to block up Mouth-gate with dirt.

Now, as Diabulous was busy and industrious in preparing to make his assault upon the town of Mansoul, without, so the captains and soldiers in the corporation were as busy in preparing within. They mounted their slings, they set up their banners, they sounded their trumpets, and put themselves in such order as was judged most for the annoyance of the enemy, and for the advantage of Mansoul, and gave to their soldiers orders to be... **Continued...**