



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 8th, 2021

(Episode 18)

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

“O wretched town of Mansoul,” continued Captain Judgment, “will you still not open your gate to receive us, the deputies of your King, and those who would rejoice to see you live? Can your heart endure or can your hands be strong in that Day when He shall deal with you in judgment? I say, can you endure to be forced to drink, as one would drink sweet wine, the sea of wrath that our King has prepared for Diabulous and his angels? Consider. Before it’s too late, consider.”

Then the fourth captain came forward, the noble Captain Execution. He said, “O town of Mansoul, once famous, but now like the fruitless bough, once the delight of the high ones, but now a den for Diabulous, hearken also to me, and to the words I shall speak to you in the name of the great Shaddai. Behold, the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees: every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire (Matt 3:7-10).

“O town of Mansoul,” he continued, “until now, you have been this fruitless tree. You bear nothing but thorns and briars. Your evil fruit indicates you are not a good tree. Your ‘grapes are grapes of poison;’ and your ‘clusters are bitter’ (Deut 32:32). You have rebelled against your King; and, lo! we, the power and force of Shaddai, are the axe that is laid to your root. What do you say? Will you turn? I say again, tell me, before the first blow is given, will you turn? Our axe must first be laid *to* your root before it is laid *at* your root; it must first be laid *to* your root in a way of threatening, before it is laid *at* your root by way of execution; and between these two, your repentance is required, and this is all the time you have left. What will you do? Will you turn, or shall I smite? If I deliver my blow, Mansoul, down you go; for I have commission to lay my axe *at* as well as *to* your roots. Nothing but yielding to our King will prevent this execution. What are you fit for, O Mansoul, if mercy doesn’t prevent you from being cut down and cast into the fire to be burned?”

“O Mansoul, patience and forbearance do not last forever; a year, or two, or three, possibly; but if you incite rebellion for three years— and you have already done more than this— then what follows except to cut it down? No, ‘Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down’ (Luke 13:9). And do you think these are only threats, or that our King has no power to execute His words? O Mansoul, you will find that when the words of our King are belittled or made light of by sinners, there is not only warning, but burning coals of fire. You

have already encumbered the ground long enough. Will you continue to do so still? Your sin has brought this army to your walls, and shall your sin also bring judgment into your town to carry out execution? You have heard what the captains have said, but as yet, you shut your gates. Speak out, Mansoul, will you do so still, or will you accept conditions of peace?"

Mansoul refused to hear these brave speeches from the four noble captains; and although the force of their speeches could not break it open, yet its sound continued to beat against Ear-gate. Ultimately, the town desired some time to prepare their answer to these demands. The captains then told them that if they would throw out to them one Ill-Pause, who was in the town, they might reward him according to his works, and then that they would give them time to consider; however, if they would not cast him over the wall of Mansoul to them, then they would receive no more time to consider. "For," they said, "we know that, as long as Ill-Pause draws breath in Mansoul, all good consideration will be confounded, and nothing but mischief will come upon them."

Then Diabulous, who was present with the townsfolk at the time, being reluctant to lose his Ill-Pause, resolved to answer the captains himself (because Ill-pause was the tyrant's orator); and then changing his mind, he commanded the then Lord Mayor, the Lord Incredulity, to speak, saying, "My lord, answer these renegades and speak out, that Mansoul may both hear you and understand you."

So Incredulity, at Diabulous' command, began, and said, "Gentlemen, you've camped against us, as we've here seen; and by it you've disturbed our prince and molested the town of Mansoul: but from wherever you've come, we don't care to know; and whoever you are, we will not trust; and whatever you say, we will not believe. Indeed, you tell us in your terrible speech that you have this authority from Shaddai, but by what right He commands you to act, we have no idea what you're talking about. You have also, by the aforesaid authority, summoned this town to desert her lord, and, for protection, to yield up herself to the great Shaddai, your King; flatteringly telling her, that if she will do it, He will pass by and not charge her with her past offences. Further, to the terror of the town of Mansoul, you have also threatened with great and sore destructions to punish this corporation, if she does not consent to act according to your will...."

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:

As Captains Boanerges, Conviction, and Judgment have already spoken, how do you suppose Captain Execution differs from the first three?

The captain's desired that Mansoul "throw out to them on Ill-Pause" if the townsfolk wanted more time to consider their answers to the demands of the captains, and ultimately the demands of the great Shaddai. Based upon the two paragraphs that mentioned Ill-pause by name, why do you suppose the captains wanted him to be cast over the wall to them? Read Romans 9:28. Does this help you to understand the role of Ill-pause and the captains' desires to have Ill-paused removed?

Diabulous has Lord Incredulity speak in the hearing of both the captains and the townsfolk of Mansoul. Incredulity means "disbelief" or "skepticism." Consider and discuss some of the ways that disbelief and being skeptical of God's gospel truths would be harmful to the unbelieving sinner. Consider also the ways that disbelief and skepticism of God's Word would be harmful to the gospel believer.