



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

September 11th, 2022

(Episode 52)

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

[After deliberation, the jury rendered a verdict of guilty upon every Daibolonian brought before the bar of the court. Death was their sentence, and they were kept under the custody of the Jail Keeper until their executions the next morning; however, Mr. Incredulity escaped, lurking in places and holes until an opportunity could arise to cause mischief.]

Now when Mr. True-Man, the Jail Keeper, perceived he had lost his prisoner, he was severely distressed, since this prisoner was, to speak quite frankly, the very worst of all the gang. First, he went and acquainted my Lord Mayor, Mr. Recorder, and my Lord Willbewill, with the matter, and received from them an order to search for him throughout the town of Mansoul. So an order he received and search was made, but no such man could now be found in all the town of Mansoul.

All they knew was that he had lurked awhile here and there outside of the town, and a few had caught a glimpse of him as he made his escape out of Mansoul. One or two also affirmed that they saw him outside the town, going quite hastily over the plain. Now when he was quite gone, Mr. Did-See affirmed that he wandered freely over dry places until he met with Diabulous, his friend; and where do you suppose they met one another? but just upon Hell-gate Hill.

But oh! what a lamentable story the old gentleman told Diabulous concerning what sad alteration Emmanuel had made in Mansoul! At first, he told Diabulous how Mansoul had, after some delays, received a general pardon at the hands of Emmanuel, that they had invited Him into the town, and that they had given Him the castle for His possession. He said, moreover, that they had called His soldiers into the town, and coveted who should quarter the most of them; they also entertained Him with the timbrel, song, and dance. "But," said Incredulity, "that which is the sorest vexation to me is, He has pulled down, O father, your image, and set up His own; pulled down your officers and set up His own. Yes, and Willbewill, that rebel, who, one would have thought, should never have turned from us, is now in as great favor with Emmanuel as ever he was with you. But, besides all this, this Willbewill has received a special commission from his Master to search for, to apprehend, and to put to death all, and all manner of Daibolonians he shall find in Mansoul; yes, and this Willbewill has taken and committed to prison already eight of my lord's most trusty friends in Mansoul. Nay, further, my lord, with grief I speak it, they have been all arraigned, condemned, and, I doubt before this, executed in Mansoul. I told my lord of eight, and myself was

the ninth, who should assuredly have drunk of the same cup, but that through craft, I, as you see, have made my escape from them.”

When Diabolous heard this lamentable story, he yelled and snorted in the wind like a dragon, and made the sky to look dark with his roaring; he also swore that he would try to get revenge on Mansoul for this. So they, both he and his old friend Incredulity, concluded to enter into great consultation how they might get the town of Mansoul again.

Now, before this time, the day had come in which the prisoners in Mansoul were to be executed (Rom 8:13). So they were brought by Mansoul to the cross at the center of town, and that in the most solemn manner (Rom 6:12-14). For the Prince said that this should be done by the hand of the town of Mansoul, “That I may see,” said He, “the eagerness of My now redeemed Mansoul to keep My word, and to do My commandments; and that I may bless Mansoul in doing this deed. Proof of sincerity pleases Me well; let Mansoul, therefore, first lay their hands upon these Diabolonians to destroy them” (Gal 5:24).

So the town of Mansoul slew them, according to the word of their Prince; but when the prisoners were brought to the cross to die, you can hardly believe what troublesome work Mansoul had of it to put the Diabolonians to death. For the men, knowing that they must die, and every one of them having irreconcilable anger in their hearts toward Mansoul, they took courage at the cross, and there, resisted the men of the town of Mansoul. Therefore, the men of Mansoul were forced to cry out for help to the captains and men of war. Now the great Shaddai had a secretary in the town, and he was a great lover of the men of Mansoul, and he was at the place of execution also; so he, hearing the men of Mansoul cry out against the strugglings and unruliness of the prisoners, rose up from his place, and came and put his hands upon the hands of the men of Mansoul. So they crucified the Diabolonians that had been a plague, a grief, and an offence to the town of Mansoul (Rom 8:13).

Now, when this good work was done, the Prince came down to see, to visit, and to speak comfortably to the men of Mansoul, and to strengthen their hands in such work. And He said to them that, by this act of theirs, He proved them and found them to be lovers of His person, observers of His laws, and such as also had respect for His honor. He said, moreover, to show them that they by this should not be losers, nor their town weakened by the loss of them, that He would make them another captain from one of their own ranks. And that this captain

should be the ruler of a thousand, for the good and benefit of the now flourishing town of Mansoul.

So he called one to come to Himself, whose name was Waiting, and requested him, "Go quickly up to the castle gate, and inquire there for one Mr. Experience, who waits upon that noble captain, the Captain Credence, and bid him come here to Me."

So the messenger who waited upon the good Prince Emmanuel went and did as he was commanded. Now the young gentleman was waiting to see the captain train and muster his men in the castle yard. Then said Mr. Waiting to him, "Sir, the Prince desires that you should come down to His Highness immediately." So he brought him down to Emmanuel, and he came and bowed down before Him.

Now the men of the town knew Mr. Experience well, for he was born and bred in Mansoul; they also knew him to be a man of conduct, of valor, and a person prudent in matters; he was also a graceful person, well-spoken, and very successful in his undertakings. Therefore the hearts of the townsmen were transported with joy when they saw that the Prince Himself was so taken with Mr. Experience, that He should deem it necessary to make him a captain over a band of men. So with one consent they bowed the knee before Emmanuel, and with a shout said, "Let Emmanuel live forever!"

Then said the Prince to the young gentleman, whose name was Mr. Experience, "I have thought good to confer upon you a place of trust and honor in this My town of Mansoul." Then the young man bowed his head and worshipped. "It is," said Emmanuel, "that you should be a captain, a captain over a thousand men in My beloved town of Mansoul."

Then said the captain, "Let the King live!"

So the Prince gave orders immediately to the King's secretary, that he should draw up for Mr. Experience a commission to make him a captain over a thousand men. "And let it be brought to Me," He said, "that I may set My seal upon it." So it was done as it was commanded. The commission was drawn up, brought to Emmanuel, and He set His seal thereto. Then, by the hand of Mr. Waiting, He sent it away to the captain.

Now as soon as the captain had received his commission, he sounded his trumpet for volunteers, and young men came to him quickly; yes, the greatest and chief men in the town sent their sons, to be... **continued.**