



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 21st, 2023
(Episode 69)

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

[*Diabulous mounted an attack upon Mansoul using more than 20,000 Doubters, with Mr. Incredulity as lord-general over the army. Diabulous didn't know, however, that Mr. Prywell had warned Mansoul of their impending march, which roused and readied Mansoul, while striking dread in the Diabonians because of Mansoul's renewed zeal and watchfulness.*] But, as I said, the captains and soldiers of Mansoul resisted so stoutly, and did so by such execution with their stones, that they caused Diabulous— though against stomach— to retreat; and for this reason, Mansoul began to take courage.

Now upon Mount Diabolus, which was raised on the north side of the town, the tyrant set up his standard there, and a fearful thing it was to behold; for he crafted upon it some devilish art which resembled a shield or coat of arms. On the art was a flaming flame with the picture of Mansoul burning in it. It was frightening to behold.

When Diabulous had done this, he commanded his drummer to approach the walls of the town of Mansoul every night and to beat a parley for a meeting. He commanded this to take place at night, for in the daytime they annoyed him with their slings. Because the town of Mansoul now trembled, he had it in mind that by commanding the drums to beat every night, that through weariness they might at last, if possible (at the first they were unwilling yet), be forced to parley.

So this drummer did as commanded. He arose and beat his drum. But when his drum roared, if one looked toward the town of Mansoul, "*Behold, darkness and distress; and the light is darkened by its clouds*" (Isa 5:30). No noise was ever heard upon earth more terrible, except the voice of Shaddai when He spoke. But how did Mansoul tremble! It now looked for nothing except to be immediately swallowed up.

When this drummer had beaten for a parley, he made this speech to Mansoul: "My master has bid me tell you, that if you willingly submit, you shall have the good of the earth; but if you are stubborn, he is resolved to take you by force." When the fugitive spoke and had stopped beating his drum, the immediate recourse for the people of Mansoul was to the captains who were in the castle. Since there was none to regard, nor any left to give this drummer an answer, the drummer proceeded no further that night, but returned again to his master at the camp.

When Diabulous saw that by drumming he could not work out or influence Mansoul toward his will, the next night he sent his drummer without his drum, still to let the townsmen know he had a mind to parley with them. But when all came to all, his parley had become a summons

to the town to surrender themselves. They gave him neither heed nor hearing, for they remembered what it cost them to hear him a few words the first time.

The next night he sent again, and then who should be his messenger to Mansoul but the terrible Captain Sepulcher. Captain Sepulcher came up to the walls of Mansoul, and made this oration to the town—

“O, you inhabitants of the rebellious town of Mansoul! I summon you in the name of the prince, Diabulous, that, without any more ado, you open the gates of your town and admit the great lord to come in. But if you should still rebel, when we have taken the town by force, we will swallow you up like the grave; therefore if you will listen to and heed my summons, say so, and if not then let me know.

“The reason for my summons,” he continued, “is this: for my lord is your undoubted prince and lord, as you yourselves have formerly owned. The assault upon my lord when Emmanuel dealt so dishonorably with him shall not prevail upon him to lose his right, nor prevent attempts in recovering what is his. Consider, then, O Mansoul, will you show yourself peaceable, or no? If you quietly yield to us, then our old friendship shall be renewed; but if you still refuse and rebel, then expect nothing but fire and sword.”

When the languishing town of Mansoul heard this summoner and his summons, they were even more downcast, but still gave no answer at all to the captain; so away he went as he came.

But after some consultation among themselves, as also with some of their captains, they applied themselves again to the Lord Secretary for counsel and advice from Him; for this Lord Secretary was their chief preacher, as was also mentioned some pages before, only now He was ill at ease. The townsfolk begged His favor in these two or three things—

1. That He would look comfortably upon them, and not keep Himself retired from them as much as He had formerly. Also, that He would be persuaded to give them a hearing, while they should make known their miserable condition to Him. But to this He told them as before, that as yet He was still uneasy, and therefore could not do as He had formerly done.

2. The second thing that they desired was that He would be pleased to give them His advice about their now so important affairs, because Diabulous had come and set down before the town with no less than twenty thousand Doubters. They said, moreover, that both he and his captains were cruel men, and that they were afraid of them. But to this

He said, "You must look to the law of the Prince, and there see what is laid upon you to do" (Psa 119:105).

3. Then they desired that His Highness would help them frame a petition to Shaddai, and unto Emmanuel His Son, and that He would set His own hand to it as a token that He was one with them in it: "For," said they, "my Lord, many petitions have we sent, yet can get no answer of peace; but now, surely, one with Your hand upon it may obtain good for Mansoul."

But all the answer that He gave to this was, "that they had offended their Emmanuel, and had also grieved Himself, and that therefore they must as yet partake of their own devices" (Heb 12:6).

This answer from the Lord Secretary fell like a millstone upon them; yes, it crushed them so that they could not tell what to do; yet they dared not comply with the demands of Diabolous, neither with the demands of his captain. So then these were the straits the town of Mansoul was betwixt when the enemy came upon her: her foes were ready to swallow her up and her friends delayed to help her (Lam 1:3).

Then my Lord Mayor stood up, whose name was my Lord Understanding, and he began to pick and pick, until he had picked comfort out of that seemingly bitter saying of the Lord Secretary; for thus he commented upon it: "First," said he, "this unavoidably follows upon the saying of my Lord, 'that we must yet suffer for our sins.' Secondly, But," he continued, "the words yet sound as if at last we should be saved from our enemies, and that after a few more sorrows, Emmanuel will come and be our help" (Jas 1:2-4). Now the Lord Mayor was the more critical in his dealing with the Secretary's words, because my lord was more than a prophet, and because none of his words were such, but that at all times they were most exactly significant; and the townsmen were allowed to dig into them and examine them to their best advantage.

So they took their leaves of my lord. They then returned and went to the captains, to whom they told what my Lord High Secretary had said; who, when they had heard it, were all of the same opinion as was my Lord Mayor himself. The captains, therefore, began to take courage and to prepare to make some brave attempt upon the camp of the enemy, and to destroy all that were Diabolonians, with the roving Doubters that the tyrant had brought with him to destroy the poor town of Mansoul.

So all armed themselves immediately and went to...

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