



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 22nd, 2021

(Episode 20)

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

Now when the captains saw the answer of the great ones, and that they could not get a hearing from the old natives of the town, and that Mansoul was resolved to give the King's army battle, they prepared themselves to receive them, and to try it out by the power of the arm. And, first, they made their force more formidable against Ear-gate; for they knew that, unless they could penetrate that, no good could be done upon the town. This done, they put the rest of their men in their places; after which, they gave out the word, which was, "You must be born again." Then they sounded the trumpet; then they in the town made them answer, with shout against shout, charge against charge, and so the battle began.

Now, the townsfolk planted upon the tower over Ear-gate two great guns: one was called High-mind; and the other Heady. They placed a great deal of trust upon these two guns. And mischievous pieces they were, indeed. The guns were cast in the castle by Diabulous' founder, whose name was Mr. Puff-up. Shaddai's captains had taken notice of these guns; and they were so vigilant and watchful, that though sometimes the gunshots would go by their ears with a whiz, yet the guns did them no harm. The townsfolk asked no question by use of these two guns, but fired them only to greatly annoy the camp of Shaddai, and to sufficiently secure the gate; but they had no real reason to boast in the execution of their defense, as will be gathered by what follows.

The famous Mansoul had also some other small pieces in it, of which they used against the camp of Shaddai.

Those in Shaddai's camp also did as stoutly; and with as much of what may in truth be called valor, they let fly as fast at the town and at Ear-gate. For they saw that, unless they could break Ear-gate open, it would be vain to batter the wall. Now the King's captains had brought with them several slings, and two or three battering-rams. With their slings, therefore, they battered the houses and people of the town; and with their rams they sought to break Ear-gate open.

The camp and the town had several skirmishes and brisk encounters, while the captains, with their engines, made many brave attempts to break open or beat down the tower that was over Ear-gate, and at the said gate, to make their entrance. Mansoul, however, stood up against it so lustily, through the rage of Diabulous, the valor of the Lord Willbewill, and the conduct of old Incredulity, the Mayor, and Mr. Forget-good, the Recorder, that the charge and expense of that summer's wars, on the King's side,

seemed to be almost quite lost, and the advantage had returned to Mansoul. But when the captains saw how it was, they made a fair retreat, and entrenched themselves in their winter quarters. Now, in this war, you must understand how much loss there was on both sides, of which be pleased to accept this brief account to follow:

The King's captains, when they marched from the court to come up against Mansoul to wage war, as they came crossing over the country, they happened to light upon three young fellows who had a mind to become soldiers. They were proper men in appearance, men of courage and skill. Their names were Mr. Tradition, Mr. Human-Wisdom, and Mr. Man's-Invention. So they approached the captains and offered their service to Shaddai. The captains then told them of their plan, and bid them not to be rash in their offers; but the young men told them they had considered the thing before, and upon hearing they were marching for such a purpose, came here specifically to meet them, in order to be listed under their excellencies. Then Captain Boanerges, for they were men of courage, assigned them to his company, and so away they went to the war.

Now, when the war had begun, in one of the quickest skirmishes, a company of the Lord Willbewill's troops rushed out from the sallyport, or private gate, of the town, and fell in upon the rear of Captain Boanerges' men, where these three fellows happened to be. So Lord Willbewill's company took them prisoner and carried them away into the town. They had not been there long before it was noised about the streets of the town that three notable prisoners had been taken by the Lord Willbewill's men, snatched from the camp of Shaddai. At length, tidings thereof were carried to Diabulous to the castle, to wit what my Lord Willbewill's men had done, and whom they had taken prisoners.

Then Diabulous called for Willbewill, to know the certainty of this matter. So he asked him, and he told him. Then, Diabulous sent for the prisoners, 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....

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:

The two guns over Ear-gate are named "High-mind" and "Heady," having been cast in Diabulous' castle by Mr. Puff-up. What does Mr. Puff-up represent? See 1 Timothy 3:6 if you need help to answer.

Why would high-mindedness be fallen man's defense from hearing and receiving the Word of God? Read Romans 12:6. How does this verse inform your answer?

Why would headiness be fallen man's defense from hearing and receiving the Word of God? Read 2 Timothy 3:4. How does this verse inform your answer? Having read 2 Tim 3:4, how does "Heady" work together with "High-mind" in defiance of God's Word?

The answer to these last questions will be understood more clearly after next week's episode. Consider how Mr. Tradition, Mr. Human-Wisdom, and Mr. Man's Invention were soldiers under Captain Boanerges before they were captured by Willbewill's company of men. What do you suppose it means that they were in Shaddai's camp at first before they were taken prisoner? In the last sentence today, Diabulous asked the three captives "if they would be willing to serve him against their former captains." How do you think they answered the giant?