

The Lion

by Dan Searls

Scripture tells us that “Satan is like a roaring lion roaming around looking for lunch!” (1 Peter 5:8, DSV – Dan Searls Version). Even a superficial reading of Scripture will show just how true this is!

Moses was supposed to speak to the rock. But he struck it instead and failed to give God the glory. It cost him the Promised Land.

King David got a serious case of “the stupids” the night he saw Bathsheba on the rooftop. Look how it affected the rest of his life.

Solomon was the wisest man to have ever lived, the WISEST! But to his detriment he became involved with the gods of his wives.

Clearly the lion is out there. And some people would put missionaries up on a pedestal as super-spiritual people. Yet who are we missionaries to think that somehow we will avoid the lion’s grasp? Are we more holy than Moses, a man Scripture tells us walked with God? Are

we wiser than Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived? The truth of the matter is that we are not. Missionaries are people with clay feet like everyone else. We make mistakes. We wrestle with our passions. We struggle to have our quiet times. To think that missionaries will not be bothered by the lion is sheer folly.

Two brothers, both missionaries to Africa, tell the story of how one day they were going about their business when a runner from a nearby village approached. He begged them to come and help. A lion was harassing his village, and it had already killed several animals and a person. The villagers didn’t have any firearms, and knowing the missionaries did, they sent for help. When the brothers asked why they hadn’t gone to the authorities, they were told it would take weeks even months to get help, and they couldn’t wait. “Please help us!” the messenger pleaded. Wanting to help, the missionaries went inside, retrieved their guns and ammunition, got into their Land Rover, and sped to the village.

They reached the village and asked where the lion was suspected of being. The villagers pointed toward the vast grassy plain north of the village. Deep grass, up to a man’s chest, as far as the eye could see, stretched out before them. Somewhere in this grass was a lion with a taste for man.

“Who will go with us?” the brothers asked.

“We’re not going out there! You have the guns. You get the lion!” was the reply.



At this point, the brothers began to question just how much they wanted to help! But they had come and promised to help, so help they would.

The brothers knew that when a lion hunts, it always attacks from the rear, surprising its prey. If the prey is able to see the lion coming, it is often able to escape. Knowing this, they checked to make sure their guns were loaded, flicked off their safeties, and shouldered their weapons. Then, standing back to back, they waded out into the grass.

One of the brothers later reported, “Every step I took, I felt for my brother behind me. Every turn he made, I made. I knew that as long as he was behind me I was safe! I felt for him every step. I never let our backs separate, not even for one step.”

A low growl broke the silence, the grass near them exploded, and the lion leapt from his hiding place. The rifles, already on their shoulders, boomed. The brothers and their families are still serving our Lord. The lion is dead.

There is a lion that would like nothing more than to see me fail as a missionary, just as he’d like to see you fail in your calling, your work, your family, church and friendships. We all desperately need people who will stand at our back in prayer. On many days, those prayers are all that stand between us and the lion!



Dan Searls is a native of Montana. He received a BA in missions and Bible at Asbury College (Kentucky); took course work at Alliance Theological College (Australia); and received a TESOL certificate at International Training Network, Trinity College, University of London. Dan and his wife, Katy Beth, and their four daughters are missionaries in Erd, Hungary with World Gospel Mission involved in church planting, evangelism, discipleship and teaching English.