

## “3 Man Eating Lions!”

### I. INTRO:

- A. An old fable tells about a crane that was wading in a stream looking for snails when a beautiful swan landed nearby. The crane had never seen a swan before, so he asked, “What are you?” “I’m a swan,” came the reply. “And where did you come from?” the crane inquired. “Heaven,” the swan answered. “What is that?” asked the crane. The swan eagerly began to explain its beauty and glory. He spoke of the new Jerusalem, the city of pure gold with a jasper wall and pearly gates. He described its “pure river of water of life, clear as crystal.” At that point the crane interrupted, “Tell me, are there any snails in heaven?” “No, I’m afraid not,” the swan said. “Then I don’t care to go there,” the crane stated decisively. “I like snails!”
1. Can you see how some people are like that crane? They are so enamored by earthly possessions that they fail to appreciate the eternal riches of Christ and all He has to offer.
  2. Like the rich young ruler in Mark 10, they foolishly choose the things of earth instead of the wonderful realities of heaven.
- B. Topic change, mood change, theme change (not assurance, but warning).
1. Believers need to be aware of the reality of temptation.
- C. The 1st part of this chapter we were reminded we have an Advocate(1); we have an Example(6); we have a commandment to love(7-11).
1. This week we’ll see we also have some enemies(15-27), but also a wonderful hope(28,29).

### II. 3 MAN EATING LIONS!

- A. THE WORLD! (15-17)
- B. (15) For God so loved the world...Do not love the world -
1. That’s an interesting commandment John, “Do NOT love the world!”  
I thought we were supposed to love the world? Aren’t we supposed to love the people of the world? Love the lost people of the world? Love our neighbor in the world?
  2. “World” comes up 185 x’s in the NT. John uses it 105 of the times(5 ways).
    - a) 5 ways he uses kosmos: the universe at large; the earth; a large group or majority(sometimes hyperbole); the whole race of sinful people who are in opposition to God; the whole moral order of society organized under the powers of evil & in rebellion against God. (Shepherd’s Notes)

3. **The world** means “*all that belongs to this life that is opposed to Christ.*”
    - a) It’s Satan’s system, i.e. **society opposed to God & taking the place of God.**
  4. **The world** he is talking about is defined in the next verse. [i.e. the world system]
- C. (15b) Love for the world & love for God are mutually exclusive. **A person can’t do both.**
- D. (16) Here are the 3 man eating lions:
1. **Lust of the Flesh** -The cravings of sinful man. **Wrongful desires of our sinful nature.**
    - a) **The world’s temptations starts deep within us!**
  2. **Lust of the eyes** - The wrongful desires that are inspired through our vision.
    - a) **The world tempts us by its physical attraction!**
    - b) Its *ways* appear **good**, but its *beauty* has **no substance**.
    - c) It’s reading magazines about people who live hedonistic lives **and** spend too much money on themselves **and** wanting to be like them. [Think of how many TV shows were built on this: Lifestyles of the rich & famous; Pimp my ride; MTV’s Cribs(tours of the houses and mansions of celebrities)]
  3. **Pride of life** - The boasting of what he has & does. Arrogance due to material possessions. (lit. “*the boasting of life*”) [life = *bios*, life in its human/material form]
    - a) **The world tempts us to outshine others in wealth & possessions!**
- E. Some have likened this to **Eve’s** temptations in the garden (Gen 3 **saw; pleasant to the eyes; she took**)  
 Some have likened this to **Achan’s** temptations in the tent (Joshua 7:21 **saw; coveted; took**; the Babylonian garments/ 200 shekels of silver/wedge of gold)  
 Some have likened this to **Jesus’** temptations in the wilderness (Mat. 4 **stones/bread; jump; all these things I will give you**)
1. (Max Lucado) The desire to **enjoy** things, the desire to **achieve** things, the desire to **get** things.
  2. (Griffith Thomas) The desire of **having**; The desire of **seeing**; The desire of **being**.
- F. (17) **Is this not what the world lives for?** (the big 3)
1. Living for the world means losing everything in time, because **the world is passing away** (*Lot* suffered such loss).
    - a) **When the world passes away, those who are a part of it will pass too.**
  2. But if we live for God, we will **abide forever**.
  3. **The Christian is not ruined by living in the world, but by the world living in him.**

- G. **Abides forever** - serves as the motivation to overcome the temptations of the world & not love it. {James 1:12, "**blessed is he who endures temptation...**"}
1. **Q: Are you building for eternity or living for time?**
- H. So the **warning**(15) the **wickedness**(16); & the **worthlessness**(17) of the world system.
1. Hear this loud & clear... **There can be no permanent satisfaction from anything in the world; it is all temporal!!!**
- I. **THE LAST HOUR!** (18-23)
- J. **First warning:** not to love the world. **Now, Second warning:** watch out for false teachers.
1. Like Antichrist, they'll claim to teach the truth, but actually deceive people.
  2. Their real colors appear when they deny that Jesus is the Messiah.
- K. (18) **It's the last hour** - "It's the beginning of the beginning of the end, the inauguration of the last days, or the new age."
- L. **Antichrist** verse **antichrist**.
- M. **Antichrist** = "Against Christ", or "an opposition Christ", "a rival Christ."
1. The word is used only by the apostle John.
    - a) **Antichrist** = Daniel calls "**the little horn**"; Paul calls him "**the man of sin**"; John in the Rev calls him "**the beast of the sea**"; & Charlie Tuna called him "*the chicken of the sea!*"
- N. **antichrist** - John warns about the *anti-christian teachers* & tells us how to recognize them
1. They've left the fellowship of the truth(19)
  2. They **deny that Jesus is the Christ/Son of God** come in the flesh(22)
  3. They try to seduce/**deceive** believers(26)
- O. (19) Not people who change *fellowships*; but friends who walk away from fellowship, from *the Lord*, from *Christianity*, from *Jesus*.
1. **So if a *professing* Christian falls away from the truth, what is proved that might not have been obvious earlier?**
- P. Note here also is the doctrine known as the perseverance of the saints.
1. **Not that they will persevere themselves, but that God will *preserve* us.**
    - a) God finishes what He starts. **He ensures His purposes in election are not frustrated.**
  2. **Those who are truly saved will remain true to Christ until the end.**
  3. **It is not endurance that saves but endurance is the characteristic of the truly saved.**
- Q. (20) When you place "**you**" at the front of the sentence in Greek, gives it strong emphasis
1. **Emphatically, true believers have the Holy Spirit!**

- R. **THE TRUTH!** (24-27)
- S. 3 safeguards for continuance in the faith: [1]An anointing [2]The Promise [3]Eternal Life
- T. (27) You do not need anyone teach you does not mean you have no need for pastors & teachers. [i.e. how can John “teach them” that they didn’t need teaching?]
1. He’s saying that believers must be **spirit-taught personally** through the Word & should not always depend on human teachers.
  2. The Christian in fellowship w/God will read & understand the Bible & be taught by the Spirit. (Warren Wiersbe)
- U. **THE APPEARING!** (28,29)
- V. We have a **wonderful hope**...the coming of Jesus Christ.
- W. **Appear & coming** - interesting meanings that help describe Christ’s 2nd Coming:
1. **Appear** - suggests *unveiling, an uncovering, a revealing, or manifestation*.
    - a) Christ & His glory are **now hidden** in some degree as He resides at the Father’s right hand.
  2. **Coming** - A technical term for a royal visit. [only here used by John (often by Paul)]
    - a) It describes Christ’s 2nd Coming into the presence of His people.
- X. Some Christians who have not been abiding(fellowshipping) w/Christ will be ashamed when He returns.
1. I know people who are immediately ashamed when they’re not in “church fellowship”; of course they’d be ashamed if they’re not in “Christ fellowship”.
- Y. The test of sonship **isn’t** if you **say** you’re a believer(4,6,9); **or** if you are apart of us for a time(19); **but** the test of sonship is **righteousness of life**. [the call to do what is **right!**]
1. John teaches, like Peter, that **false doctrine** & **false living** go together!
  2. If we believe the truth w/our hearts & commit ourselves to it, **then** we will live holy lives before men.
- Z. How do we overcome **the world**? With God’s **love!**  
How do we overcome **liars**? With God’s **truth!**
- AA.To say, I’m going to miss these things in the world is to say, “*I like snails!*”
- BB.**Machaca Hills**(used to be El Pescador) **eating breakfast at this resort that sits on to of the Rainforest canopy. Birds, Holler Monkeys, beautiful flowers & plants everywhere. Then I noticed a hummingbird feeder hanging on the patio. Is that what it looks like to God when we eat from the sugar of this world, instead of deriving spiritual nectar from the vast flowers He has provided?**