

The Holy War



Week 8

Mansoulians petition Emmanuel

to

Captains Judgment and Execution
withdraw from the town

Goals

- To gain a greater understanding of the **spiritual warfare** in which we are engaged.
- To develop a greater awareness of the **methods employed by Satan**.
- To deepen our appreciation for the **grace of God** in saving sinners.
- To learn more about ourselves through empathizing with Mansoul (**Mansoul = me**)

Synopsis

The Mansouliaus petition Emmanuel for mercy. He responds in such a way as to work true repentance in the townsmen and prepare their hearts for His forgiveness.

Key Questions

- What primary Bible passages come to your mind as you read this assignment?
- To what degree does the story accurately depict Bible teaching?

Review

“What shall I say?”

“The Diabolonians in these days lay dead in every corner, though too many yet were alive in Mansoul.”

Petition

- When the townsmen learn that Emmanuel is enthroned at Ear-gate, what do they do?
 - They send Him a petition
- What were the contents of the petition?
 - Confession of sin
 - Sorrow for offense
 - Prayer for mercy

Emmanuel's Response

- **What was Emmanuel's response to the petition?**
 - He gave no answer
- **Why did he give no answer?**
 - To allow full repentance to ripen in their hearts
 - To bring their trust in Him to full fruition

March to the Castle

- The captains take the castle and send word to Emmanuel.
Describe the march of Emmanuel through the town to the castle:
 - He was “clad all in armour of gold”
 - “With his standard borne before him”
 - But “he kept his countenance much reserved”
- Describe the thoughts of the townsmen during His march:
 - They interpreted His demeanor to mean that He must hate them
 - Yet “they also wished a thousand times over that he would become their Prince and Captain [and] . . . protection”
 - They would “talk of the comeliness of his person” and of His “glory and valour”
 - Their thoughts would go “backward and forward” “upon all manner of extremes”

Emotions

- Name 3 ways that Emmanuel heightens the uncertainty of the townsmen:
 - He gives no answer to their petition
 - His demeanor is reserved as he enters the town
 - He returns to His pavilion outside the town after routing Diabolus
- Make some observations about the emotions of the new convert:
 - His emotions are often mixed
 - He mourns over his sin
 - He sees the “preposterousness” of his request for grace and mercy
 - Yet he has joy at the prospect of deliverance
 - They may seem fickle, alternate quickly, or be experienced simultaneously

The Dethroning of Satan

Action	Spiritual Reality
Evicted from the castle	
Bound in chains	
Stripped of armor	
Bound to chariot wheels	
Escorted out of city	
Departed to find new place of rest	

Matthew 12:25-28 Jesus said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or household divided against itself will not stand. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then could he drive out the demons of his own kingdom? But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."

Luke 11:24 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith unto himself, I will return unto my house, and will abide there. And when he is returned, he findeth it occupied and furnished with seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Eph 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

Leaders Imprisoned

- After shaming Diabolus and kicking him out of the town, Emmanuel returns to his pavilion outside of the town.
- He gives orders for the captains to imprison the leading men of the town under strong guard
 - Lord Understanding
 - Mr. Conscience
 - Lord Will-be-will
- **Why did Emmanuel command this?**
 - While these men were in sympathy with Immanuel's takeover, they had not yet surrendered themselves to His rule.
 - The drastic move brought the spirits of the townsmen low and induced them to offer a series of petitions to Immanuel.

Further Petitions

Petition # 1

“Great and wonderful potentate, victor over Diabolus, and conqueror of the town of Mansoul, we the miserable inhabitants of that most woeful corporation, humbly beg that we may find favour in thy sight, and remember not against us former transgressions, nor yet the sins of the chief of our town, but spare us according to the greatness of thy mercy, and let us not die, but live in thy sight; so shall we be willing to be thy servants, and, if thou, shalt think fit, to gather our meat under thy table. Amen.”

Sent by:

Mr. Would-Live

Reception:

Silence

Further Petitions

Petition # 2 (“Much after the form and method of the former.”)

The townsmen first asked Captain Conviction to deliver the petition, but he refused.

“he neither durst nor would petition Emmanuel for traitors, nor be to the Prince an advocate for rebels”

Sent by: Mr. Desires-Awake
(with rope around his head having fallen face-first on the ground)

“O that Mansoul might live before thee!”

Reception: Emmanuel weeps and says, “Go thy way to thy place, and I will consider of thy requests.”

Further Petitions

Petition # 3

“Prince Immanuel the Great, Lord of all worlds, and Master of mercy, we, thy poor, wretched, miserable, dying town of Mansoul, do confess unto thy great and glorious Majesty, that we have sinned against thy Father and thee; and are not more worthy to be called thy Mansoul, but rather to be cast into the pit. If thou wilt slay us, we have deserved it. If thou wilt condemn us to the deep, we cannot but say thou art righteous. We cannot complain, whatever thou dost, or however thou carriest it towards us. But oh! Let mercy reign and let it be extended to us! O let mercy take hold upon us, and free us from our transgressions, and we will sing of thy mercy, and of thy judgment! Amen.”

Sent by:

Mr. Desires-awake (rope again) with Mr. Wet-eyes (son of Mr. Repentance). Falls prostrate again. Some had suggested Mr. Good-deed.

Reception:

Emmanuel weeps and gives them a two-part message to deliver to the townsmen.

Concludes with “Yet I will consider your petition, and will answer it so as will be for my glory.”

Message

- **The 2 part message:**
 - Captains Judgment and Execution are to take up residence in the castle and keep things calm.
 - Captains Boanerges and Conviction are to bring the prisoners before Emmanuel in His pavilion.
- **The townsmen are petrified**
- **The leaders prepare themselves to “be tumbled out of the world”**
- **The three men are brought before Emmanuel, and He asks them a series of probing questions.**

Probing Questions

#1 – Are you the men that used to be the servants of Shaddai?

“Yes, Lord, yes”

#2 – Are you the men who allowed yourselves to be corrupted and defiled by Diabolus?

“We did more than suffer it, Lord; for we chose it of our own mind.”

#3 – Could you have been content to have been enslaved by Diabolus for the rest of your lives?

“Yes, Lord, yes; for his ways were pleasing to our flesh, and we were grown aliens to a better state.”

#4 – Did you heartily wish that I would not get the victory over you?

“Yes, Lord, yes”

Probing Questions

#5 – What punishment do you deserve for your high and mighty sins?

“Both death and the deep, Lord; for we have deserved no less.”

#6 – Do you have anything else to say for yourselves as to why this sentence should not be passed upon you?

“We can say nothing, Lord: thou art just, for we have sinned.”

#7 – What are those ropes on your heads for?

“to bind us withal to the place of execution, if mercy be not pleasing in thy sight.”

#8 – Do all the men in the town feel this same way?

“All the natives, Lord; but for the Diabolonians that came into our town when the tyrant got possession of us, we can say nothing for them.”

Captains Withdrawn

- “Then was fulfilled what they never looked for, and they were made to possess that which they never dreamed of.”
- Emmanuel commands that Captains Judgment and Execution should withdraw from the castle and town and that Captain Credence should now take possession of the castle instead.
- “And now was the town of Mansoul also delivered from the terror of the first four captains and their men.”

Procession

- Judging from the answers of the town leaders, did Emmanuel achieve what He had been working towards?
- After hearing the answers to their questions, what did Emmanuel do first?
 - He commanded that:
 - a herald "proclaim, and that with sound of trumpet, that the Prince, the Son of Shaddai, had, in his Father's name, and for his Father's glory, gotten a perfect conquest and victory over Mansoul"
 - "the prisoners should follow him, and say Amen.

More Gifts

- **What did Emmanuel do next?**
 - He proclaimed that he had power and commandment from His Father to forgive Mansoul, and that He forgave them accordingly.
 - He issued them a “large and general pardon” written on a parchment and sealed with seven seals.
 - He “stripped the prisoners of their mourning weeds” and instead gave them:
 - Beauty for ashes
 - The oil of joy for mourning
 - The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness
 - He further gave them:
 - Jewels of gold and precious stones
 - Chains of gold about their necks
 - Ear-rings in their ears

Reaction of the Town

- What was the reaction of the town leaders to this pardon?
- “Now, the prisoners, when they did hear the gracious words of Prince Emmanuel, and had beheld all that was done unto them, fainted almost quite away; for the grace, the benefit, the pardon, was sudden, glorious, and so big, that they were not able, without staggering, to stand up under it.”
- (Read quote from Bunyan’s own conversion in *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*)

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