

The Holy War



Week 15

Mansoul's excursion to attack Diabolus' camp

to

Captain Credence put in charge of 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

Emboldened by their previous victories, the Mansoulians make a “daring” attack that fails. This failure works in them a right spirit so that they resist in spite of severe trials and they properly petition Emmanuel.

I Corinthians 10:12

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Night Sally

- Greatly encouraged and emboldened by their recent victories, the men of war decide to “sally out” upon the camp of Diabolus. Who led the raid?
 - Captains Credence, Experience, and Good-Hope
- What was the folly that Bunyan notes about their plan?
 - They chose to do it at night which was best for the enemy and worst for them.
 - Diabolus and his men were “expertly accustomed to night-work.”
 - Thus they “were as ready to give them battle . . . as if they had sent them word of their coming.”

Initial Success

- **What was the initial result of their attack upon the camp?**
 - The captains fought “stoutly,” “wounded many,” and “made the whole army of Diabolus to . . . retreat”
- **What happened that turned the tide of the battle?**
 - Captain Credence stumbled and fell.
 - He was hurt so badly that he could not rise until Captain Experience helped him up.
 - He cried out in pain and Experience and Good-Hope fainted supposing that he had been killed.
 - This put all of the Mansoulia armies into disarray.
 - Diabolus stopped retreating and began to advance.
 - He cut and pierced the captains so badly that the entire army scarcely made it safely back into the hold.

Reversal

- **What effect did this turn of events have on Diabolus?**
 - He was greatly encouraged that he would have “in few days, an easy and complete conquest over the town.”
 - He was greatly emboldened to come up to the wall and demand that they surrender.
- **What effect did it have on the Diabolonians?**
 - They were emboldened to gather themselves together and “hurricane” through the town.

Responses

- How did the town answer Diabolus when he demanded surrender?
 - Understanding:
 - You must take us by force.
 - We will not yield to another as long as Emmanuel is alive.
 - WillBeWill
 - We fell for that once, but are too well acquainted with your ways now to submit to you again.
 - We have hope that deliverance will come.

Responses

- How did Lord Willbewill respond to the Diabolonian “hurricane” within the town?
 - He “played the man” and took up arms against them.
 - Although he was not able to completely kill any, he severely wounded and maimed many including:
 - Lord Cavil
 - Lord Brisk
 - Lord Pragmatic
 - Lord Murmur

Persistence

- “Mansoul was not to be parted with for the loss of a victory or two”
- Still somewhat emboldened by his previous victory, what strategy did Diabolus employ next?
 - He had his soldiers attack Feel-gate at night
- Why did he choose Feel-gate?
 - It was the weakest of the gates
- What was his battle cry and why?
 - Hell-fire!
 - To play upon the town’s feelings and convince them that they had been abandoned by Emmanuel and Shaddai.
 - Psalm 22:1-2

Breach

- **What was the outcome of this strategy?**
 - He was able to throw the gates wide open.
 - Due to the wounds of the valiant captains, the townsmen were only able to slow down Diabolus' entry but not prevent it.
- **With the town being breached, what did the captains decide to do and why?**
 - They "betook themselves to the castle"
 - They did this in order to:
 - Protect themselves
 - Protect the townsmen
 - "Preserve to Emmanuel the prerogative-royal of Mansoul"
- **Proverbs 4:23 "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."**

Consequences

- **What are some of the dire consequences that resulted from Diabolus' return to the town?**
 - He quartered his soldiers (Doubters) in every house.
 - They set parts of the town on fire.
 - They dashed many children in pieces.
 - They destroyed children still in the womb.
 - They forced, ravished and abused the women. Many died.
 - There were piles of bodies at the top of every street.
 - They wounded and mauled many of the men.
 - They wounded Mr. Conscience, and he was in pain continually.
 - They almost put out Lord Understanding's eyes.
 - The Diabolonians came out of hiding and walked openly.
- **What prior event does Bunyan remind us of at this point?**
 - "Ah, poor Mansoul! Now thou feelest the fruits of sin, yea, what venom was in the flattering words of Mr. Carnal-Security!"

Occupation

- **Why were the occupying forces unable to be at peace in the town?**
 - The townsmen did not give them any supplies willingly—all had to be taken by force. Some were hidden from them.
 - The captains slung stones at them from the castle.
- **Why was Diabolus unable to break open the castle gates though he made many attempts to do so?**
 - Mr. Godly-Fear was the keeper of the gates.
 - He did such a good job that Bunyan remarks: "I have wished sometimes that that man had had the whole rule of the town of Mansoul."
- **How long was the town in this condition?**
 - Two and a half years

Petition

- At this time the elders of Mansoul decided to pursue what course of action?
 - To draw up another petition to send to Emmanuel.
- What points did Mr. Godly-Fear remind them of?
 - That Emmanuel would not receive a petition unless the Lord Secretary put His hand to it.
 - That that is why their petitions had not prevailed thus far.
 - That the Secretary would not set His hand to a petition unless He had a part in composing it.
- This time the High Secretary agreed to help them draw up a petition, but what stipulation did he lay upon them?
 - They must be present as it is drawn up and join heart and soul in the matter.
 - The hand and pen were His, but the ink and paper must be theirs.

Petition

- **By whose hand did they send the petition?**
 - Captain Credence
- **What were the contents of the petition?**
 - Confession of sin
 - Plea for forgiveness and mercy
 - Statement of their condition
 - Plea for help
 - "We are no more worthy to be called your Mansoul"
 - "Thy grace can be our salvation, and whither to go but to thee we know not."
 - "Our wisdom is gone, our power is gone, because thou art departed from us"
 - "Take pity upon us . . . thy miserable town of Mansoul."

Scriptural Responses

- When Diabolus learned of their petition he felt fear and rage.
- He demanded that the castle gates be opened or that Captain Credence be delivered up to him.
- In the exchange that follows, list some of the Scriptural responses from the leaders of the town:
 - “Mansoul, when she had suffered awhile, should be made perfect, strengthened, settled.” (I Peter 5:10)
 - “And him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out” (John 6:37)
 - “All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven to the sons of men” (Matt 12:31)
- What does this indicate about the town’s spiritual growth?
 - They had Emmanuel’s words hidden in their hearts.
 - They had come to the point that they would trust His words in spite of their failures and the hopelessness of the situation.

Return of the Messenger

- When Captain Credence returned from his errand, what was his initial message and what was he carrying?
 - “All will be well in time”
 - A packet of letters
- What was the general content of the letters?
 - Commendation and promise of reward
 - List the recipient and points of commendation of each letter:

Letters of Commendation

Recipient	Commendation
Lord Mayor Understanding	
Lord Willbewill	
Mr. Conscience	
Mr. Godly-Fear	
The whole town	They had remained faithful in the face of both plagues and hardships.

Promise of Reward

- **Revelation 2-3** (Letters to the seven churches)
- **Hebrews 6:10**
For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.
- **Revelation 22:12**
And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.
- **I Corinthians 4:5**
Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

A New Leader

- What position is Captain Credence given by Emmanuel and why?
 - Governor of the town and lieutenant of all of the forces.
 - Because only faith can overcome an army of doubters.

Parallels

The Holy War	The Christian Life
Night sally	
Captain Credence's fall	
Diabolonian "hurricane"	
Lord Willbewills counter-insurgency	
The attack on Feel-gate	
The cry of "Hell-fire!"	
The occupation of the town	
Successful petitioning of Emmanuel.	understands his weakness and utter dependence upon God.

Parallels

The Holy War	The Christian Life
The answers of the town leadership from the castle	
Letters of commendation	
Captain Credence made governor of the town	

The Holy War

