

The Holy War



Week 12

First mention of Mr. Carnal Security

to

Reminder that the townsmen had failed to
destroy the lingering Diabolonians

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

Mr. Carnal-Security deceives the town into depending on their own strength, and Emmanuel is forced to leave Mansoul. The townsmen recognize their error and begin the process of petitioning Emmanuel for His return.

“But there was a man in the town of
Mansoul, and his name was Mr.
Carnal-Security.”

Carnal Security (His Character)

- **Describe the lineage of Mr. Carnal Security**
 - His father was Mr. Self-Conceit (a Diabolonian)
 - His mother was Lady Fear-Nothing (daughter of Lord Willbewill)
- **Describe his character**
 - He was self-conceited like his father
 - He feared nothing like his mother
 - He was a very busy man (always involved in what was going on)
 - He always sided outwardly with what he supposed to be the strongest side
 - He had encouraged Mansoul in their rebellion during the siege and then “switched sides” when Emmanuel was in the town.

Carnal Security (His Strategy)

- **Describe the strategy of Mr. Carnal Security**
 - He flattered the townsmen
 - He “cried up their might and their glory”
 - He “beginneth his tale with the power and strength of Mansoul”
 - He “affirmed that [the town] was impregnable”
 - He magnified their:
 - Captains, slings, rams, fortifications, strongholds
 - Assurances from Emmanuel that Mansoul would be happy forever
- **In summary:**
 - He found common ground with the townsmen
 - He took a truth and slowly turned it into a wedge
 - He turned the townsmen’s affections away from Emmanuel and onto their privileges

Carnal Security (Effect on the Town)

- **What effect did this strategy have on the town?**
 - It was pleasing to the people.
 - They went from “talking” to “feasting” to “sporting” to “other matters.”
 - Understanding (Mayor), Willbewill, and Mr. Knowledge (Recorder) were all taken with his words.
- **How had Emmanuel warned them about this previously?**
 - He had told them that their security “did not so much lie in her present fortifications and force, as in her so using of what she had, as might oblige her Emmanuel to abide within her castle.”
 - He had told them to remember His and His Father’s love and so to “demean themselves” in order to keep themselves in this love.

Carnal Security (What They Should Have Done)

Bunyan adds that they should have stoned Mr. Carnal-Security, for then:

“Should their peace have been as a river, when their righteousness had been like the waves of the sea.”

Withdrawal #1

- **What 4 ways does Bunyan describe how the people withdrew from Emmanuel?**
 - They left off their former way of visiting Him at His palace.
 - They did not notice the fact that He no longer came to visit them.
 - They neglected to come to the love-feasts that He prepared for them and called them to.
 - They did not ask for His counsel, but were confident in themselves and their strength.
- **How does Emmanuel respond to this withdrawal?**
 - He “bemoans them”
 - He sends the Lord High Secretary to them twice to warn them.
 - The Secretary finds them at dinner in Carnal-Security’s parlor.
 - He is grieved and goes His way.
 - He reports back to Emmanuel.
 - He takes offence and decides to withdraw Himself.

Withdrawal #2

- In what 4 ways does Bunyan describe the gradual withdrawal of Emmanuel from the townsmen?
 - He began to keep himself “close” and “more retired” than formerly.
 - His speech was no longer as pleasant and familiar as it had been.
 - He no longer sent to Mansoul “those dainty bits” from His table.
 - When they came to visit Him on occasion, He was not so easily spoken with as before.
- Why does Bunyan go to great lengths to describe the gradual nature of the withdrawing of Emmanuel?
 - To highlight, once again, the great patience and longsuffering of the Lord in His dealings with us.

Final Withdrawal

- **Did the townsmen respond to His change of behavior?**
 - “They did not consider”
 - “They did not know His ways”
 - “They regarded not”
 - “They were not touched with these, nor with the true remembrance of former favours.”
- **What was the manner of Emmanuel’s physical withdrawal from the town?**
 - He left the palace and went to the gate.
 - He left the gate and went back to His Father’s court.
 - He did this so that they would “acknowledge their offence, and more earnestly seek his face.”
- **Who else resigned his post as a result of Emmanuel’s leaving?**
 - Mr. God’s-Peace

Sad Condition

“Thus they walked contrary to him, and he again, by way of retaliation, walked contrary to them.”

But Alas!

“By this time they were so hardened in their way, and had so drunk in the doctrine of Mr. Carnal-Security, that the departing of their Prince touched them not, nor was He remembered by them when gone; and so, of consequence, His absence not condoled by them.”

The Prophet

- What character first drew the townsmens' attention to their woeful condition?
 - Mr. Godly Fear
- What was his past and present status within the town?
 - He was "formerly one of great request"
 - He was "now but little set by"
- Under what circumstances did he deliver his message?
 - At a feast in the house of Mr. Carnal Security

The Encounter

Describe the dialogue between Godly-Fear and Carnal Security:

- **Fear:** "sat like a stranger" and "neither did eat nor was merry"
- **Carnal:** Are you not well? Have a drink from Mr. Forget-Good that will help.
- **Fear:** I have a word for the elders of Mansoul.
- **Fear:** It is strange to see you so merry, when the town is in such a woeful state.
- **Carnal:** You need sleep. Take a nap while we party.
- **Fear:** "If you were not destitute of an honest heart, you could not do as you have done."
- **Carnal:** Why?
- **Fear (mini-sermon):**
 - The town of Mansoul was strong
 - You, townsmen, have weakened it
 - You, Carnal-Security, have broken down its defenses
 - The Strength of Mansoul has been offended and is gone
 - Where is the Prince Emmanuel?
 - You would have fought off enemies from without, but your enemies from within have been too hard for you.
- **Carnal:** "You are for doubting, and I am for being confident"

The Turning Point

- Godly Fear then describes the details of how Emmanuel gradually left. To what Bible character does he compare the town?
 - Samson
- Who is the first townsman to side with Mr. Godly Fear?
 - Mr. Conscience
- At this point, what previous instructions from Emmanuel came back “very hot” into their minds, and what did they do?
 - To put to death false prophets within the town
 - They burned Carnal-Security’s house with him in it

Further Signs of Repentance

- **Name 2 more indications of the woeful condition of the town?**
 - There was a great sickness particularly effecting the captains and men of war
 - Their garments from Emmanuel were dirty, torn, and loose.
- **What did the townsmen further do at this point?**
 - They looked for Emmanuel, but did not find Him.
 - They began "severely to reflect upon themselves."
 - They went to the Lord Secretary, but He would not admit them.
 - They highly esteemed Mr. Godly Fear once again.
 - On the Sabbath, Mr. Conscience delivered a thundering message:
 - **Jonah 2:8** "They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy."
 - Mr. Conscience called for a day of fasting
 - Captain Boanerges preached a message:
 - **Luke 13:7b** "Cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?"

The First Petition

- At this point they consult with Mr. Godly Fear. What does he advise them to do?
 - To draw up a humble petition to their offended Prince to ask for His grace and a turning away of His anger.
- Whom do they decide should carry the petition?
 - The Lord Mayor (Mr. Understanding)
- Why kind of reception did he receive at the court of Shaddai?
 - The gate was shut
 - There was a strict guard at the gate
 - He had to stand outside for a long time

Emmanuel's Response

- Understanding then sent one to tell Emmanuel of his errand. What response did he receive from the Prince?
- “They have turned their back unto me, and not their face; but now in the time of their trouble they say to me, Arise, and save us. But can they not now go to Mr. Carnal-Security, to whom they went when they turned from me, and make him their leader, their lord, and their protection now in their trouble; why now in their trouble do they visit me, since in their prosperity they went astray?”
- “And now [Mr. Understanding] began again to see what it was to be familiar with Diabolonians”

The Town's Response

- **How did the town react to the response from Emmanuel?**
 - They cried and mourned
 - They put ashes and dust on their heads
 - They put on sackcloth
 - They asked Mr. Godly-Fear again what should be done
- **What was Mr. Godly-Fear's response?**
 - He told them "there was no way better than to do as they had done, nor would he that they should be discouraged at all with that they had met with at court"
 - "For . . . it is the way of the wise Shaddai to make men wait and to exercise patience, and it should be the way of them in want, to be willing to stay his leisure."

Continuous Petitions

- **So the townsmen sent . . .**
 - Again and again and again and again
 - Until the road was full of petitioners meeting each other coming and going
 - “all that long, that sharp, that cold and tedious winter”
- **What failure of the town does Bunyan once again highlight after describing the nature of their petitioning?**
 - Their failure to fulfill their commission to seek out and destroy all of the Diablonians present within the town
- **What was the result of this failure?**
 - The Diablonians became more emboldened
 - Some of the townsmen grew too familiar with them

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