

The Man-Eater Is Coming

Equipping for the Battle

(Focus Passage 1 Peter 5:6-10 KJV)

Purpose- Preparing Against the Enemies Attacks

1 Peter 5:6-10 KJV

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. 7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

I- Predator or Prey?

The light of my small hand held flashlight bounced off the leaf covered forest floor, as I made my way down the unfamiliar ridge to the tree that I had hung my climbing stand in the evening before. The crunching sound of my feet moving through the woods was like that of someone eating extra crunchy potato chips. The thought that today would be one of those early fall days when you would hear them before you see them immediately lodged in my mind.

As I started my 20-foot ascent up the old red oak, I began to ponder the possibilities that this new day in the woods could hold. One of the things that I love about hunting and fishing is that element of the unknown, and the thought that today might be the day when a monster of the Creator could appear.

After reaching my desired height in the tree; retrieving and hanging my backpack and bow, I sat into the comfort of my treestand. Minutes dragged by like they often seem to do when I am waiting for first light. As the first shard of light began to illuminate the majesty of God's marvelous creation, I was reminded that the thickness of the cover would cause my prey to be in bow range before I could see him.



Maybe the unusual dryness of this fall and that it made moving in the woods so noisy could warn me of an approaching animal.

I double-checked the wind and it was blowing perfectly in my face, as a matter of fact the slight breeze was an oasis for me since the climb had caused me to get a little warm. Now all that was left for me to do was simply wait and see what this day would bring.

Along about 9:30 I began to hear the unmistakable sounds of something coming up the ridge. This new and ever increasing sound jolted me from my peaceful mode and placed me on high alert. I could already tell that my heart rate had begun to elevate and that some adrenalin was beginning to flow through my veins. As I reached for my bow, I commenced to think about what was the owner of those footsteps that was drawing ever closer, could it be a doe with her fawns? I strained my ears trying to decipher as much as I could; I was pretty sure that this was a single animal by the cadence of the sound. That ruled out a doe and fawns, but that also ruled out a group of bucks running together like they often do this time of year. Maybe this was big and burly old buck that was so dominate and physically imposing no other buck could not tolerate him. I resolved that I would just have to wait and see.

As I stood there perched in that tree with my bow in hand, I was straining to see what was coming. With heart in full-blown runaway mode, I was starting to think that this anticipation was going to kill me. Then I saw a flicker of movement coming up the ridge to my left. I shifted my feet ever so slightly to position myself for a shot if it presented itself, and that is when I saw what was responsible for the sound. It was a big red coyote, which like me was on a hunt. However, that predator was about to become the prey. As he continued to move, like they often do, I came to full draw and when he presented an easy shot at about 18 yards I settled the pin and instinctively touched the release; smack was the sound that the arrow made as it disappeared through the lungs of that coyote, which was not all that "*Wiley*" on this day. The coyote could not make it far with both lungs deflated and he crashed just out of sight from me.

I hung my bow back up, and thought about the destruction that the coyote had intended for turkeys, or maybe a fresh rabbit was on his mind. It could have been that he was looking for a rodent or a squirrel for breakfast. Maybe he was seeking a fawn that could be his

provisions for a day or two. Whatever the case, it was almost as if I could hear the applause of all the prey of the forest; for today they would not be his meal.

Then the notion that there was a spiritual predator who desired to devour my life and discredit my testimony came to rest in my mind in a way that caused me to shiver. It is a chilling thought that someone intends that much harm to us as Christians. However, the man-eater is coming; Jesus told Peter that Satan desired to sift him as wheat in **Luke 22:31**. I have seen him chew up and spit out good men. Therefore, we must not kid ourselves, the man-eater is coming and his intentions are to kill, steal, and destroy. We must be prepared for the unannounced attacks of Satan, who is a man-eater.

II- Bible Binoculars



1- The Preparation for the Battle

1 Peter 5:6. Preparation for spiritual combat with the man-eater must always begin with the act of us **“humbling”** ourselves under the Lordship of God. This is an act of submitting the totality of our being under the **“mighty hand of God.”** God’s hand is powerful and mighty, so our submission is the placing of our life **“under”** his hand to expose us to the omnipotent protection that only God could provide. This protection is necessary in order for us to overcome the attacks of Satan. When we position ourselves under the divine authority of God, who is **“mighty”** and powerful, we unlock the occasion for God to **“exalt”** us **“in due time”** or at the proper opportune time. When is that time? Well, God only knows that perfect divine time. So we must keep our life firmly placed under the hand of God, through our continual submission to his absolute authority.

In your opinion are you totally submitted to the Lord?



What do you think God would say about your answer?

1 Peter 5:7. In order to have victory in spiritual warfare we must cast all of our burdens, worries, and concerns upon the lord. The result is a lightened load. In **Matthew 11:30** Jesus said, **“For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”** This releasing of our cares is also an act of faith on our part. When we give these things over to God we are saying that we trust the Lord more than ourselves. It is imperative that we trust in the power of God, much more than we trust in our own might. Through this we will learn how much that God **“careth”** for us, and to what length that He will go to make sure that we are prepared and protected. Let’s start casting cares upon the Lord because the man-eater is coming. Take a moment and write down some things in your life that you need to give over to God.



1 Peter 5:8. We must possess a spiritual mind to avoid and overcome the attacks of the man-eater. **Philippians 2:5** says, **“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”** This mindset will lead us to **“be sober”** that is a mind, which is not influenced or clouded by carnal things. The things of the world will often distract us to the point that we become spiritually impotent in the face of an attack. Therefore, we must be **“vigilant”** or ever watchful and on guard for the tricks of the man-eater. Who is the man-eater? He is our **“adversary”** and the archenemy of Christians. He is called the “devil;” that is to say that he is the one who seduces humanity to evil in every possible way. This man-eater roams the world looking for men to **“devour.”** What is left after something is devoured? Nothing! Satan and the sin that he is going to tempt you with will take the strong man that you think you are and will eat up everything you have and all that you have ever dreamed of. However, when we are submitted unto the Lord and our cares are released to him and our mind is on Him we will overcome the man-eater.

2- The Plan for the Battle

1 Peter 5:9. Our plan for the battle is to submit to God and **“resist”** the man-eater. **James 4:7** says, **“Submit yourselves**

therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” We “**resist**” him through our “**faith.**” It is easy to see that it is important that we are continually growing in our faith. We must also realize that Satan wants to isolate us and make us feel like we are the only one having to battle him. This could not be further from the truth, because all Christians will face spiritual battles. What are some ways that you can grow in the faith and implement the battle plan in your life?

3- The Purpose of the Battle

1 Peter 5:10. Why does God allow us to go through spiritual battles? That is a valid question that is asked by many Christians. The answer lies in the fact that God has a purpose in allowing us to face difficult times. You see during these periods we learn how to fully trust in God, and through this process he makes us more complete and settled in the faith. God also “**strengthens**” us with spiritual knowledge and power in the midst of the battle.

III- Limiting Out

1- What is the right mindset for overcoming the man-eater? How will pride hinder your victory over sin?



2- What should our first step be in preparing for battle? Is it easy or hard to give your cares over to God? Why?

3- Looking back at previous spiritual battles can you see that God had a purpose in them? List those purposes.



4- From those purposes how did you learn God's truth? Can you use what you've learned for future battles? How?



5- What truth in this study has had the greatest impact on you?

SPORTSMAN'S TIP

*Be prepared for the unexpected,
you just might turn a predator into
your prey.*

**Season
of
Growth**

*Becoming equipped to
survive the attacks of satan
is imperative for a growing
Christian.*