

## #21 A SPOKEN WORD.....

The following message came during a time of discouragement over my present lot in life and of sensing that my life was just too rough.

*These words are spoken during my sleep, "If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with the horses (horsemen)?"*

This question comes from the first part of verse found in Jeremiah 12:5. The second half of the same verse reads:

“...and though in a land of peace thou art secure, yet how wilt thou do in the pride (swelling) of the Jordan?”

Sometimes we complain about our lot in life and allow it to weaken us. We know we are aided by the Lord to serve and work for Him at certain levels and places, but we become dissatisfied for various reasons and slow down or stop in our zeal for service. We murmur as children and inform the Lord of our assessment of the circumstances. However, if we do not learn to function and overcome where He places us, we will not be able to overcome at higher levels of service. Jeremiah was asked a question which could be paraphrased in our language: “If you can not overcome minor problems and perform tasks you are well able to do, how will you be able to overcome major problems when they arise?”

As we enter spiritual warfare we are all foot-soldiers. As we progress in our spiritual walk and learn to deal with our enemies God will grace us to move up to higher ranks. He desires horsemen in His army to array against the adversary’s horsemen. Advancement in spiritual ranks is determined by God’s call and our overcoming at the lower levels of service. Jesus spoke of a demonic strongman over the house and said if we are to spoil that house, we must first bind that man.

At this point we need to make a statement of practical application. If we cannot stand for the Lord now and deal with the verbal reproaches and rebuttals of non-Christians, how will we be able to stand under real persecution and bodily harm if we ever are called to do so? Remember Peter in the garden. He really thought he would die with his Lord, but because he did not watch and pray as the Lord commanded, he succumbed to a spirit of fear at the dark hour of Satan’s power. Shall we do less if we do not heed God’s warnings to prepare ourselves? I find it a marvel that so many people claim to be Christians yet their lifestyles declare otherwise. At the work-place they live secret worldly lives yet in church act so spiritual and godly. Now if we lack boldness to live what we believe before the world, surely we will not stand when all hell breaks loose.

A sad fact must be stated here: most professing Christians will not make it to heaven for they fear too much the thoughts of men. If we deny Christ in our daily walk we shall find ourselves denied by Him later. Fear of man is a sure trap. My friends, men’s opinions will not mean much when we all stand before the Lord one day. It is far better to live in the fear of the Lord than of men. Christ warns that we should fear our God who can destroy a body and send a soul to hell more than a man who can only destroy the body. God never warns unless there is a danger to be heeded, or unless He is ready to carry out the threat at a given time. Yes, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Therefore, when the Lord calls us to a certain lot in our walk let us receive His grace and help to accomplish His expectations of us. In so doing He will lead us up higher in spiritual service and rank.