

#30 THE DREAM.....

I am walking through a large, long house and see several huge lions. I walk cautiously from room to room. As I enter one room I close the door behind me, and then hear a lion approaching and lying against the outside of the door. My exit is blocked and I am under great temptation to fear. I warn myself that I must leave this house before nightfall for that is when the lions will feed. Suddenly there is a torch in my hand with fire glowing from it. As I begin to move from room to room holding this light, the lions glare at me as they await the hour of darkness.

The dream then changes and I find myself standing and teaching on these verses from Matthew 7:21-23:

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy by thy name, and by thy name cast out demons, and by thy name do many mighty works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity.”

The house of lions signifies the world, now the domain of the devil. Satan is referred to as a roaring lion roaming about to devour souls. We must know our enemy and defend ourselves against his attacks. Demons come and go in our lives whether we are aware of them or not. We must use the weapons provided to defend ourselves against these attacks. Fire is a symbol of God and of light and purifying. Just as fire purifies gold and silver and at the same time destroys the chaff and useless substances, so God's fire purifies us and destroys our sin and dead works. God Himself is called a consuming fire in the book of Hebrews.

Now in the natural world lions and wild beasts are afraid of fire. They may not be afraid of man, but fire will put them to flight. Demons work and hunt in the dark, for it is their most favorable element. The fire of God's presence or word will reveal the demons' activities and cause them to flee in terror. We must allow the light and fire of God's Word to burn in us and do its work. We can quench this fire by our refusal to submit to God and His plans, and thereby open ourselves to harm by the enemy's demonic forces. It is important to keep our lamps burning and the oil flowing at all times.

The connection between the two phases of the dream, the scriptural portion and the scene in the house is this: the lions will devour and deceive many into thinking they are God's servants. Satan has used his darkness to blind truth to the heart that is not open to the whole Word of God. Those who do not receive the fire and true light of God's Word will have no protection from the powers of darkness.

These verses spoken by our Lord are hard but must have their place. They are warnings to be heeded. Many professing Christians who find themselves in the state of saying "Lord, Lord" will be denied one day by that Lord. It matters not about our denominational beliefs or professions. Christ will address many of them and speak those hard words. What a sad time to find out one is rejected.

It is good and great to minister in the name of the Lord. It is good to have gifts and services usable for His kingdom. Ministry and works, however, are no signs in themselves that a soul is submitted to the lordship of Christ. Even true believers can minister gifts and works yet be out of God's will, ending up backslidden and worldly in their personal lives.

In these verses it is interesting that the Lord never affirms or denies these gifts or ministries, but He does address the heart of the speakers who call Him Lord and tells them that they are full of sin and iniquity. To call Jesus Lord is to imply He is just that, and that we are submitted to Him in word and

deed. Yes, my friends, it is sad but true that many shall use the Lord's name to minister and may indeed help people much, but they will be denied entrance into His heaven; their motives and lives were not right before Him. Yes, even, sinful, backslidden and lukewarm persons can be used of God. God can honor His Word even if it comes from an evil vessel.

Woe to the preacher and teacher who tell people they are saved, yet those souls may never have truly believed and repented. Woe to the ministers who give false assurances and a license to sin to many souls, thus blinding the sinner in his sin and in the end damning those souls. Greasy grace and worldly living are not a part of the true Christian's lifestyle. (Greasy grace is the belief that one can merely confess Jesus as Lord and thereby be assured of heaven without true repentance. Thus one slides into heaven at the end without having persevered with Christ and without a practical overcoming life produced by submitting to the Holy Spirit.)

Surely the soul that has Christ and walks with Him may fall into sin, but he will be dealt with by his Lord. The soul that gives me problems is the one who seems to glory in God's grace and yet appears to have a license to sin. Yes, I know what is coming up now in many of your minds, but I will not spend much time on the doctrinal debating of such. I would say to the soul that lives in gross sin and lives a worldly life, "You never knew Christ, or you had Him and lost Him!" Take your choice. We may differ here, but I am not required by Scripture to believe that every one who says "Lord, Lord" or who claims to be born again is truly born again. I would rather shake them up and have them re-examine themselves to see if they are in the real faith than to confirm them into thinking they are Christians when their lives and fruit prove otherwise.

Some will say we should not cause a soul to doubt its salvation. I say that if that soul does doubt then one of two states exists: either the soul does not have Christ or the soul is not walking in the Spirit. Their doubting fears should lead them to seek Christ. Many doubt their salvation because they were talked into a mental Christianity without the Holy Spirit's having done a work in them. A soul may also be in willful sin against God, and the Lord's judgment and frequent chastening allow that soul to experience fear in order to cause him or her to run to Him.

Our Christian walk must be practical, so let it be so. My friends, if you have to check out your spiritual salvation by someone else's opinion, you are in a sad state of spirit! The Holy Spirit and the Word will bear witness with our spirits that we are His. Woe to the ministers that give false assurances to people who sit in their pews year after year that do not know Christ! Woe to the hearers that sit in those pews and never check truth out for themselves! Gullible and lukewarm souls will be deceived for they seek not truth with sincere hearts.