

## There's A Lion In The Streets

**TEXT:** Proverbs 26:13

1-15

### INTRODUCTION:

- When it comes to a study of human nature, one can never improve on the wisdom found in the book of proverbs.
  - It is the wisdom of God revealing the pitfalls of life to man. Its primary purpose is to give wisdom <sup>to</sup> the young man who would be king.
  - The book speaks to such subjects as: Parents and children.
  - The earning, saving and spending of money.
  - It speaks of love, life, and laughter.
  - It speaks of hate, envy and jealousy.
  - It speaks of lying, slander, fraud and justice.
  - It speaks of good women, and bad women; of the rich and poor.
  - It also speaks of sloth, industry and excuses.
  - Today, I choose last word of my list for a subject. I speak of excuses.
  - **"There is a lion in the street!"**

*an excuse for being lazy, idle*

### I. MEN WHO ARE IRRESPONSIBLE ARE QUICK TO EXCUSE THEMSELVES

**A.** The first example of this is seen in Adam and Eve who excuse themselves of responsibility for their behavior.

- **Genesis 3:12-13** Adam blames woman, Eve blames Satan <sup>Serpent</sup>

**B.** Saul is another great example of irresponsibility.

- He blamed the people for his disobedience.
- **1 Samuel 15:8-12** <sup>15:1-21</sup> notice vs 15, 21

**C.** One other example is Aaron.

- **Exodus 32:21-24** - Aaron blames people
- Adam and Eve did not take responsibility for their action.
- Saul blamed Samuel and the people for his disobedience.
- Even Aaron refused to take responsibility for his sin.
- Until every man and woman takes personal responsibility for his own behavior, he will never be right with God.
- HE will always make excuses.
- Even if he imagines a lion is in the street.
- **Illustration:** People make excuses why drink and take drugs, because of their bad childhood - "There is a Lion in the street"
- People make excuse why murdered someone because of was battered as a child.
  - Again, "There is a Lion in the street" syndrome.

## **II. THE LORD SHOWS THEIR HYPOCRISY BY THE EXTREMITY OF THE EXCUSE**

- One is not apt to find a lion in the street in the daytime.
  - They are usually in the den.

- However, when men and women do not want to do as they should, they imagine any danger to justify their apathy.
- **Proverbs 26:13** - "The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets."
- One cannot fail to see how ridiculous this excuse is.
  - That is just the intent.
  - Our Lord Jesus gives three example of the fine art of excuse making.
- **Luke 14:16-24** - *Excuses for serving God*
  - "18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. 19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. 20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come."

### **III. EXCUSES ARE A MANIFESTATION OF WICKEDNESS PERSONAL WICKEDNESS**

- Excuses are symptomatic of a greater problem.
  - Excuses are the words of men or women who have not accepted the Lordship of Christ.
  - They are still their own lords and masters.
- **Matthew 25:25-28**

- Notice that this man hid his talent and pretended he was afraid.
  - He pretended that a lion is in his street.
  - But the real problem was a wicked heart.
  - To him, it was reasonable that he should hid his talent.
  - To the Lord, it was wickedness.
  - The man who cried, "A lion is in the street" it justified his inactivity.
  - To the Lord, it was wickedness.
- These are not "good" people who are ill informed.
  - They are wicked and rebellious.
  - Shall we call them "good" when the Lord calls them "wicked"?

#### **IV. THE LORD REJECTS ANY EXCUSE WHICH KEEPS US FROM OUR DUTY**

- Do we really expect the Lord to accept our excuses for disobedience?
  - If we do, it only shows how irresponsible we are.
  - We must sound, to the Lord and to other, as foolish as the man who cries, "There is a lion in the street!"
- Do you rally expect the Lord to buy your excuses for abandoning out of Church?
- Do we honestly believe the One who died on the cross for us accepts our excuse for not sacrificing time and tithe for Him?
- Shall we cry "their is a lion in the street."
- Will He be satisfied with your excuse?

- And what of your failure to serve Christ?
- Shall we use as our excuse a house, a job or a wife?
- Which excuse do you think He accepts?
- Why not try this one, "there is a lion in the street!"

**CONCLUSION:**

- What excuse do you expect God to accept for your rejection of Jesus Christ?