

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 ^{to} 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 ^{Serpent}

B. Saul is another great example of irresponsibility.

- He blamed the people for his disobedience.

- **1 Samuel 15:8-12** ^{15:1-21} 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?