



"IT'S NEVER TOO LATE"

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- There is therefore now no condemnation! Whom the Son hath set free is free indeed. In I Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant because your adversary, the devil, is like a roaring lion, and walketh about seeking whom he may devour." Also, in Amos 3:12, "Thus saith the Lord, as the Shepherd taketh out of the mouth of a lion two legs or a piece of ear, so shall the children of Israel be taken out." IT'S NEVER TOO LATE!!!!
- Simon Peter writes to us timeless words of advice, words that we need to have put in our hearts - be sober, that means serious minded. Be vigilant, that means watchful. For we have an adversary, like a roaring lion, walking about and seeking whom he may devour. He is powerful, created by the Lord God, as a covering angel; second only to God Himself. You nor I are any match for the devil. The god of this world, the Bible calls him, the prince of the powers of the air! Every evil influence in our world, he's behind it! Every murder, every robbery, every beating, every war, every injustice, every time the innocent suffer, it's the roaring lion!
- The devil is at work in our generation. We are the targets of his particular attention. He's not so interested in those in the juke box joints. He's not so worried about those spaced out on drugs. He's really worried about what's going on at the campgrounds. I want you to understand that the devil isn't playing games. I know that he can't be inside of this Tabernacle. When the choir started singing about the Son setting people free, I felt the power of God! Satan's out in the darkness pacing around where he belongs. He can't hang around where the Lord is!
- Devil, the blood of Jesus is against you because greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world! Don't ever forget when Jesus looked at Simon Peter and said, "Simon, Satan desires to have you, but I have prayed for you." I'm not worried about the devil! I don't underestimate his power but I know a power that is superior!
- In I Peter 5, it's the lion in view, but in Amos 3:12 it's not the lion so much in view as it is the Shepherd. Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd, and I will give my life for the sheep." He might have left the ninety-nine but He brought back the lamb because He loves the sheep of His pasture. I see the determination of the Shepherd! When Amos said the Shepherd will go after nothing more than a couple of legs or a piece of an ear, it means the Lord is saying, I'm not giving the devil one inch. Our Shepherd is never going to leave us nor forsake us. Most importantly when I read Amos 3:12, I see that to the Shepherd - "IT'S NEVER TOO LATE."
- I don't know how it happened! You didn't plan it this way. You didn't intend to be rebellious or to backslide. Maybe you just stopped praying and it isn't long before other things start following. You forgot to

read your Bible, there was no more fasting and it wasn't too long before church was not a joy. You sit in the back and clipped your fingernails, wrote notes, or thumbed through the song book. You didn't realize that God's presence was so near! When the preacher preached, you were bothered, but when things really got going, you got the attitude of turning off! You didn't realize what was happening but it doesn't stop the church. The church kept right on moving! The only one that's hurt is you. You were getting cross with your parents or with your preacher but you didn't realize it until one day you're all alone. You need the church today! We need to pray - worship and believe with the church!

- Already, over a distant hill, you can't even hear the sounds, you're all alone. Then you see out of the corner of your eye a movement in the bushes. Sleek and powerful, crafty and sly - your adversary, the roaring lion has been stalking you for a long time. He noticed when you quit praying and when you weren't getting into the worship anymore. He knew that sooner or later he would separate you from the flock. He moves, your head snaps up and suddenly fear gets a hold of your heart. I need to find my way back under the protection of the Shepherd - but..... it's too late!!! Out of the bushes he leaps, he rips open your throat and your blood gushes out on the ground. With a snap of those jaws, your guts fall out and onto the floor. As you try to scream your last faint scream, those huge jaws crush down on your skull and there you lie. I'm telling you he isn't playing around - it isn't a game to him. If he gets a hold of you, he'll have no mercy! He doesn't want to just destroy your life, he wants to destroy your eternity!
- Satan desires to have you, that he may sift you as wheat. I know that used to be lifted to worship God is now gobbled down. A voice that used to lift praise to God is now devoured by that horrible enemy! He crushes the skull, he crushes it into bits, he swallows it down. He lies on the ground and surveys his handy work. There is nothing left but an earlobe, the tiny piece of an ear! He is not satisfied until the job is done, so those bloody lips part and that blood-covered tongue can touch the piece of an ear. Hands, nail-scarred hands, strong hands, the Shepherd's hands come out of the bushes and grab hold of the lion. The Shepherd says, "That's enough" and the two old adversaries face each other. That's why the devil's eyes of triumph turn to eyes of terror, for this Shepherd has fought and won before. I thought I heard a commotion! I thought you had one of my lambs! We've talked this over before devil, I'm going to fight you to the end. I don't care if it's just a piece of an ear, I'm going to fight you! The Shepherd and the lion struggle until finally the lion knows he's defeated and ripping himself from the grip of the Shepherd, he leaps into the safety of the bushes and is gone. Then the Shepherd walks over and picks up the remains of your life! It's just a piece of an ear - does He stand there weeping!!! Does He say, "I wish I had got there sooner?" Not this Shepherd! He formed us from the dust of the earth and all He needs is the piece of an ear and He starts rebuilding the life of that lamb. He fashions the head and the body and then the legs. He picks it up and puts it back with the ninety-nine. When He walks in the camp there's rejoicing! The lion thought it was too late - but IT'S NEVER TOO LATE!!! I don't care what's left, I don't care how tired, how beaten down, how defeated, how much sin, how many mistakes - IT'S NEVER TOO LATE!!! The Shepherd is here - give Him what's left and watch your life be put back together again!
- Lord, if you would have been here Lazarus wouldn't have died - but the Shepherd says, "It's not too late, your brothers are going to live. Roll

back the stone - IT'S NOT TOO LATE!! Oh, but he failed God so many times! I don't care how many times you've failed God - IT'S NEVER TOO LATE! You're just hanging on by a thread and the devil has lied to you and said it isn't going to happen; you've had too many chances and you blew everyone of them - IT'S TOO LATE!!

Where did you get the idea that Jesus was against you - Thinking that He's just waiting for you to mess up so He can slam the hammer of judgement on you? The devil would love for you to believe that, but Jesus is on your side. When we fail God, if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins!

- You have the idea that God doesn't like living in you and that once you finally got Him in there, He's just kind of bouncing from wall to wall - if you leave the window open or just the tiniest little crack, the Holy Ghost is going to be all leaked out. THAT'S ANOTHER LIE!!!! He wants to live inside you worse than you want Him in there! He gets a good group and He says it's going to take a nuclear bomb to get me out of here. What are you saying - that I can live like I want? No! But I'm saying if you messed up all you have to do is find a place in your heart and says, "Let's start over!" God really does love you!!
- Condemnation is the greatest weapon of the devil! He has used it on young people long enough. You've drug all that guilt around long enough, it's time to leave it at the altar. You drug hopelessness around - leave it at the altar. I know you have been torn up, I know the devil has left claw marks on your life, but the Shepherd has run him out. Let God take care of the past!
- We faltering, failing, weak, carnal humans are commanded by God to forgive 490 times. How many times will the God of the universe forgive us? Thy mercy, O God, is from everlasting to everlasting; thy mercy endureth forever! Pick up the pieces, put them on the altar. DON'T GIVE UP!!! IT'S NEVER TOO LATE UNTIL YOU QUIT!!!!