

The Baptism of Jesus

Mark 1

LEVEL 4 – WILD BEASTS AND THE RAGING OCEAN

Although the story of the Lord's baptism presents to us the image of a harmless dove, and although when the Lord came to be baptized, He was called by John “the Lamb of God,” your project as seniors has to do with fierce animals.

Think of the kind of wild animal you would not want to meet in the dark—an animal whose growl or roar you would not want to hear.

Did you know that when the Lord went to be baptized, He was getting Himself ready to be attacked by forces of terrible fierceness? Notice in the 12th verse of Mark 1, that after the baptism the Lord was “with the wild beasts.” Make no mistake about it. This was a horrible attack from the forces of hell. You are asked to draw a few pictures, even if they are the simplest outline sketches, to portray the titanic battle of history. *(You could use cut-out pictures if you can find them, or even computer clip-art)*

Application

Read the passages below from the *True Christian Religion*.

Make at least two sketches. If you love to draw you could make some really dramatic pictures.

“The Lord's combat against hell may be compared... to a conflict with all the wild beasts of the earth... until not one of them dares to come forth and attack any man who is in the Lord... Evil spirits are compared in the Word to wild beasts: and such are meant by the wild beasts with which the Lord was for forty days (Mark 1: 13) (TCR 123).

Make your animals look horrible. We are not really talking just about animals, but about something fierce that can be pictured in animals. If you, like David, were protecting sheep, and a lion or a bear attacked, the fierceness of the animal would instantly make it clear that a drastic danger must be met.

“Hell is like one monstrous man, or like a huge lion, with which indeed it is compared in the Word: therefore, unless the Lord kept that lion or monster chained up, we would keep falling into evil.”

Another comparison is that of a tremendous wave from the ocean threatening to smash us:

“It may be compared to resistance against the whole ocean, breaking in with its waves over demolished

barriers upon countries and towns; and the Lord's putting down of hell is meant by His calming the sea by saying, 'PEACE BE STILL.'"

Hell may be pictured like a great ocean pressing against a dike (*Arcana Coelestia* 1661), and the hells that attacked the Lord

"are like the sea which presses upon every part of a dike: and if the dike should be broken through by a cleft or a crack, the sea would never cease to burst through and overflow, until nothing was left standing. So would it be with man unless the Lord alone sustained in him the combats of temptations" (AC 1692).

This brings us to some comparisons that may very easily be sketched on paper, and which portray a tremendous truth. It is really true that without the Lord's help we are as powerless against hell as the following comparisons from *True Christian Religion*.

No more power than

"a fish has against the ocean, than a flea against a whale, or than a grain of dust against a falling mountain; and much less than a locust has against an elephant, or a fly against a camel" (TCR 68).

In a few seconds you could draw a picture of a flea and a whale. A collage of all these comparisons would be interesting. Do sketch at least some of these comparisons and the other pictures listed above. Bringing a high truth right down to the ultimate of a picture is an excellent way to get something fixed in your mind.

This is more than an idle thing to do, for in doing it you are illustrating the tremendous thing that the Lord came into the world to do for us. He fought against all of hell for our protection.

And this was like

"a shepherd, who like Samson and David rescues his sheep from the jaws of a lion or bear; or who drives back those beasts when they break forth from the woods into the fields. . .and then returns to his sheep, pastures them in safety, and waters them in limpid fountains" (TCR 122).

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