THE DECEMBER QT SERIES. THE LION NEVER SLEEPS!

WEEK 1. THE HUNTER.

‘He lies in wait like a lion in cover; he lies in wait to catch the helpless; he catches the helpless and drags them off to his net. His victims are crushed, they collapse; they fall under his strength.’ Psalms 10:9-10. (NIV)

Day #1. The Hunter roams the earth. Job 2:2.

*“Satan is so much more earnest than we are-he buys up the opportunity while we are wondering how much it will cost.” Amy Carmichael.*

The devil, like the lion never sleeps, he roams the entire world, going back and forth. He is much earnest than we are buying every opportunity to get us into his traps. During the festivities he will not rest, he will use all the opportunities to get as many of us as he can.

Verse 3-4 He tried to get Job who maintained his integrity as a man of God. As you enter the festivities, resolve to remain upright regardless of the temptations that he brings your way.

Day #2. The Hunter sifts the saints. Luke 22:31.

*“When you are precious to God, you become important to Satan.” Ron Hall.*

Satan asked to sift Jesus’ entire ministry and to separate them from God. The ministry of Jesus was very precious to Him and hence the most targeted. Jesus prayed for Simon Peter that he would stand and then strengthen the brothers. We are very precious to God, and therefore the most targeted by Satan. The hunter will do all he can to separate us from God. The goal for sin is never to give us fun over the festivities, but to sift us from God. Stand and don’t allow your faith to fail.

Day #3. The Hunter Steals, Kills and Destroys. John 10:10.

*“For he did not seem to know any way to do a person a kindness but by killing him.” Mark Twain.*

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. He does not know any other way of dealing with us. The festivities will provide opportunities for him to fulfill his purposes. He plans to steal our faith, to kill our faith and destroy us completely. Like the lion, when Satan sees you, he sees a meal, therefore be on your guard!

Day #4. The Hunter accuses the saints. Zechariah 3:1-2.

*“We should never argue with the devil about our sins, but we should speak about our sins only with Jesus.” Dietrich Bonheffer.*

Zechariah saw a vision of Joshua, the high priest standing before the angel and with Satan standing next to him. He stood and accused Joshua, probably for his short comings and his sins. Is there anything else he does than accuse the saints? Moments will arise when you will fall short; watch out on the spirit of guilt. Satan is determined to lay blame on you and make you feel as if you are not a disciple. Do not argue with the devil about your sins, but talk to Jesus about them in prayer.

Day #5. The Hunter deceives the world. Revelations 12:9.

*“My point is that Satan uses our keenest appetites to temp us.” James C. Dobson.*

After Satan and his angels lost the battle in heaven, they were hurled on earth. Since then his mission has remained the same; to lead the whole world astray. Knowing that his days are numbered, he wants to win as many as possible. He takes advantage of the festivities and our appetites to trap us. He will use your keenest appetites to tempt you. Remember in the desert, he challenged Jesus to turn stones into bread at a time that the Lord was hungry. He will be watching and whispering. Do not give into his schemes.

Day #6. The Hunter disguises as an angel of light. 2 Corinthians 11:14-15.

*“The devil doesn’t come dressed in a red cape and pointy thorns. He comes as everything you’ve ever wished for…” Tucker Max.*

If we met the devil today, chances are we will welcome him into our fellowship instead of fleeing. He is the king of disguise. He masquerades as an angel of light. You will find him in the church fellowships. He does not come dressed in a red cape and pointy thorns. In the jungle the lion’s body camouflages to deceive the prey. Enjoy the festivities with your spiritual eyes open and pray for wisdom to see through the disguise.

Day #7. The Hunter blinds the minds. 2 Corinthians 4:4.

*“Satan is the master distracter. He is always working to keep us off the track in our walk with God.” Joyce Meyer.*

Have you ever wondered how a victim walks straight into the hunters nest? Satan has the ability to blind. He is the god of this age. He has blinded the unbelievers so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ. During this festive season, he will try getting us distracted and before we know it, we will have left the path of God and started treading on one that leads straight to his nest. When you continue to study his Word, then like David, God’s word becomes the lamp to your feet and a light for your path.

WEEK 2. THE STRUGGLE.

‘For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.’

Ephesians 6:12. (NIV)

Day #8. The Struggle to conform. Romans 12:2-3.

*“We will not conform to a world that celebrates our self-destruction.” Anonymous.*

The struggle to conform or to comply with the patterns of this world is very real. The world has trends and lifestyles that are contrary to the practices of God’s people. During the festive season, the devil will throw many self-destructive practices to us. Therefore do not conform, instead allow God to transform you by the renewing of your mind.

Day #9. The Struggle to guard the heart. Proverbs 4:23.

*“One ought to hold on to ones heart; for if one lets it go, one soon loses control of the head too.” Friedrich Nietzsche.*

The heart is the wellspring of life. Where our treasure is, there our hearts will be. A heart that is not guarded will be vulnerable to the devils traps. Losing the heart means losing everything. The devil will target our hearts with lust, impurity, envy, jealousy and many other vices. In his struggle to guard his heart, Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 2:10 ‘I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure.’ We all know how his life ended. Not everything that our hearts desire is good for us and therefore we need to practice restraint and guard our hearts above all else.

Day #10. The Struggle to please the flesh. 1 John 2:15-17.

*“Humanity is completely consumed with the pleasures of the flesh; we have been self-programmed to lose consciousness of the soul.” Felix Wantang.*

The Apostle warns us not to love the world or anything in the world. It is unfortunate that humanity is actually consumed with the pleasure of flesh. The world offers things that are very captivating like worldly relationships, movies filled with sexual sin and scenes, systems that run on corruption and the list is endless. The flesh often struggles to resist the cravings of man, the lust of the eyes and the boasts of man’s accomplishments. Remember that all these things the world gives will pass away, but the man who does the will of God will live forever. Choose to be cautious of what you do and how it will impact your soul.

Day #11. The Struggle to tame the tongue. James 3:9-10.

*“The way you use and choose words defines who you are. How you use words touches you as well as those around you. Without really thinking about it, you can change another’s thoughts, beliefs and actions by using the power of words.” Alex Uwajeh.*

The tongue plays a big role in the struggle to remain focused. We will be involved in many conversations over the festivities. The words we use could build or destroy those around us. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Day #12. The Struggle beneath the point of bloodshed. Hebrews 12:4.

*“Never lose hope. Storms make people stronger and never last forever.” Roy T. Bennett.*

After fighting sin for a while, we can feel the pressure to comply and compromise. Perhaps we have fallen. The Bible says we have not resisted sin to the point of shedding blood. Do not lose heart as you say ‘No’ to temptations; do not be discouraged when you fall. Whatever the challenge, remember that storms will make you stronger and they will not last forever.

Day #13. The Struggle against greed. Luke 12:15

*“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s needs, but not every man’s greed.” Mahatma Gandhi.*

Jesus warned the people against greed. He said, ‘watch out! Be on guard against all kinds of greed.’ Man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. Many people driven by greed spend their resources unwisely over the festivities. Let us be on guard and use our finances wisely not allow greed to take hold of our spending. Remember, godliness with contentment is great gain. Put down a budget and follow through since in January you still have needs.

Day #14. The Struggle to stay Focused. Proverbs 4:25-27.

*“Be on guard. The road widens, and many of the detours are seductive.” David Foster Wallace.*

Staying focused during this period can be challenging. There’s so much happening. With many activities, parties, advertisements and promotions, we can lose focus. Let your spiritual eyes look straight ahead and fix your gaze directly before you, on Jesus. As the road widens and many seductive detours resurface, make level paths for your feet. Take only ways that are firm. Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.

WEEK 3. THE HUNTED.

‘Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.’ 1 Peter 5:8. (ESV)

Day #15. The Hunted, Be Strong in the Lord. Ephesians 6:10-11.

*‘When a man has no strength, if he leans on God, he becomes powerful.’ D.L. Moody.*

To be hunted is exhausting and we have to continuously be on guard. The hunted must be vigilant all the time. The antelope does not stay with the head down in the grass for more than five seconds. We need to strength to remain strong. We therefore go to God and find strength in him. Phones are normally charged to serve us for a period of time. When the battery is low, we recharge failure to which the phone goes off. Every prayer and bible study that we make adds to the charge of our spiritual batteries and keeps us strong. God is our source of strength and anyone who leans on him will become powerful. Therefore put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.

Day #16. The Hunted, Encourage one another Daily. Hebrews 3:12-13.

*‘Instructions does much but encouragement everything.’ Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe.*

There’s so much power when herds graze together and stay close to each other. The lion finds it difficult to attack. Most times he focuses on the lone animals, the weak and the injured. It is our responsibility to see to it that none of us has a sinful and unbelieving heart which turns away from the living God and from the fellowship of the believers. Everyone needs encouragement more than instructions. Be the source of encouragement to someone today and by doing so you will receive the same kindness.

Day #17. The Hunted, Pray Continuously. 1 Thessalonians 5:19.

*‘The more you pray, the less you panic. The more you worship, the less you worry. You will feel more patient and less pressured.’ Rick Warren.*

As we get into the festivities we find that less time is used in prayers and worship and more time spent panicking and worrying. We worry about our lives, what we will eat or drink, or about our bodies, what we will wear. We forget that by worrying, none of us can add a single hour to their life. Instead of being anxious about everything, present your requests continuously before the Lord, pray more and panic less, worship God more and worry less and the peace of God that transcends all understanding will guard your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus.

Day #18. The Hunted, Confess your sins to Each other. James 5:16.

*‘Confession of errors is like a broom which sweeps away the dirt and leaves the surface brighter and clearer. I feel stronger for confession.’ Mahatma Gandhi.*

We understand the significance of keeping the house clean. When our houses are kept clean the rodents are kept away. Why should we talk to each other about sin? God has designed that process to help us clean our spiritual houses. If you desire to keep a clean house this festive season, then make it your ambition to take the broom of confession and sweep the dirt away. This will leave the surface of your heart brighter and clearer. The prayers of righteous men (who sweep their houses) are powerful and effective.

Day #19. The Hunted, Flee the Evil desires. 2 Timothy 2:22.

*‘Some activities may look attractive, but you don’t have any business dating them, else they break you up. It may be good, but not right. Flee from good things and do right things!’ Israelmore Ayivor.*

As the hunted, we don’t always have to stand and fight, but at times we must flee. We don’t this because we are cowards but because it is the wisest thing to do. *There is a time for a fight and a time for a flight. Knowing the right time to do one or the other can mean the difference between life and death. (Banagmbiki Habyarimana.)* The devil will bring situations during the festivities that have the potential to destroy us spiritually, therefore flee the evil desires of the youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Day #20. The Hunted, Throw off Everything that hinders. Hebrews 12:1.

*‘Everything Satan has to offer you is a collection of what Jesus rejected; it is the garbage bin of Jesus Christ. Felix Watang.*

We need to travel light as we journey. The hunter will be watching to see those who are heavily laden with baggage. Those he will hunt down and devour. What Jesus considers as garbage does not need to be carried in our lives. The garbage of bitterness, lust, unforgiveness, resentment, porn, unconfessed sin, name it, everything that Satan has to offer. These things will become a hindrance and therefore throw them off and run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus.

Day #21. The Hunted, Resist the Devil. James 4:7-8.

*‘We gain the strength of the temptation we resist.’ Ralf Waldo Emerson.*

God also calls us to resist the devil. We must refuse to entertain everything the devil calls entertainment. Resist the temptation to impurity, masturbation, slander, greed and other sins. The more we resist the evil one and all his practices the stronger we become. Every muscle that goes through strenuous exercise for sometime develops and becomes strong and tougher. Our spiritual muscle will develop strength the moment we resist evil. Lion become weak and eventually die when they are starved. Resist the devil and starve him and he will flee. The stronger we get, the weaker the enemy becomes.

WEEK 4. THE VICTORY.

‘The reason the son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.’ 1 John 3:8b. (NIV)

Day #22. The Victory from the Lion’s Den. Daniel 6:19-22.

*“Satan prowls but he’s a lion on a leash.” Ann Voskamp.*

This is one of the most scary but inspirational events in the history of God’s people. Daniel thrown into the den of lions for not worshiping the idols set by the king. The lions could not do anything to him. He spent the entire night in the den and came out alive. God shut the mouths of the lion and protected him from destruction. Satan roars and prowls and roars like a lion but his powers are not above God’s. He is like a lion on a leash with limitations. Stay close to God, no matter the situation and He will victoriously rescue you from the lions den.

Day #23. The Victory through a clean Turban. Zechariah 3:1-5.

*‘There is nothing wrapped in my turban but God.’ Mansur Al-Halaj.*

Zechariah saw a vision of Joshua the priest standing next to an angel and with Satan on his right side. Satan (his name means accuser) stood next to Joshua and accused him as he stood with his filthy clothes before the angel as a burning stick snatched from the fire. God had picked him from the mess of sin and the dirt. Even though Satan drove guilt into the priest, God gave him hope. The Lord lifted Joshua from the fire and took off his filthy clothes, putting on him rich garments and a clean turban. Stop listening to the devils voice and listen to the voice of the Lord. Regardless of how filthy you are, he is able to remove the filth and the guilt and give you rich garments and a clean turban.

Day #24. The Victory in the Lord’s Prayer. Luke 22:31.

 *‘When we pray for others, God listens and blesses them. So when you are safe and happy, remember that someone is praying for you.’ Anonymous.*

The lord realizing what the enemy intended to do to his people, began to pray for Peter. Isn’t that encouraging, knowing that Jesus has been praying for you? He prayed that when the times of trials came, Peter would stand, and then in turn strengthen his brothers. We all looked forward to these festivities and even the New Year. None of us knows what lies ahead? Only Jesus knows about all the traps that the devil has set before us. Jesus prayed for Peter and I believe he is praying for us. Do you pray for people? Do you pray for your friends? Pray for the disciples, pray for the young disciples, and for everyone to remain strong during this period. When we pray for others, God listens and blesses them.

Day #25. The Victory of Redemption. Luke 2:25-38

*‘The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God.’ C. S. Lewis.*

Today marks one of the most celebrated days because on this day the Son of God became man. He was born in a human family and became Mary’s son. Simeon, one of the righteous and devout men of Israel celebrated the birth of Jesus saying, ‘For my eyes have seen your salvation.’ He felt peaceful and ready to die because God had fulfilled what he had promised through the prophets. The birth of Jesus should not be a day’s celebration but an everyday experience. God was going to redeem his people through Jesus birth. Let us all join the prophetess Anna and give thanks in regard to the child Jesus who brought about the redemption of Israel and the entire world.

Day #26. The Victory from Poverty to great Riches. 2 Corinthians 8:9.

*‘The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God.’ C. S. Lewis.*

We celebrate salvation today because the Son of man became a man to enable us to become sons of God. The festivities offer an opportunity for you to meet many people. You will meet people and interact with families and realize their need for God. Satan always wants us to be afraid to evangelize and postpone the invitation. Take courage and make your days count. This holiday offers us an opportunity to be fruitful. Normally the month of December registers least baptisms yet is the month that experiences most family interactions and activities that can lead to conversations. Make this holiday count!

Day #27. The Victory of Healing. 1 Peter 2:24-25.

*‘The wound is the place where light enters you.’ Jalaluddin Rumi.*

Jesus himself bore our sins in his body so that we might die to sin. He offered his body on our behalf to the lion, to be wounded. The punishment that brought us peace was upon him. Jesus wounds became the place from which light entered our lives. It is by his wounds that we all have been healed. Today as you get into the New Year remember that God has walked with you since the beginning till now. Be careful not to entertain sin again lest crucify the son of God all over again and subject him to public disgrace.

Day #28. The Victory through God’s Faithfulness. 1 Corinthians 10:13.

*‘God’s strength behind you, his concern for you, His love within you, and His arms beneath you are more* *sufficient for the job ahead of you.’ William Arthur Ward.*

As you enjoyed and continue to enjoy the festivities, I believe you have had your moments of temptations. Everybody gets tempted. No temptation is strange but common. The most amazing thing is God’s faithfulness even during our moments of temptations and trials. He never allows us be tempted beyond our ability to bear and also provide a way out so that we can stand up under it. God’s strength has been behind you, He is concerned about your welfare and faith, and his loving arms have held you beneath till now. Regardless of how the year has been, look into the future with hope because our God is faithful.

Day #29. Victory through the great high priest. Hebrews 4:15

*‘It is the hardest thing in the world to go on being aware of someone else’s pain.’ Pat Barker.*

We do not have a high priest who is not able to sympathize with our weakness but one who has been tempted in every way-yet was without sin. Sympathy is the hardest thing that we humans can give to each other. People hurt us in many ways and often we are unwilling to give them a second chance. We become very punitive in our relationships, yet when we come to Jesus, we expect sympathy. You may have had hurting relationships during the year and unresolved issues, but as you get into the New Year, you have a chance to experience the victory of Jesus by forgiving those who hurt you. Jesus sympathizes with our weaknesses and hence we can learn from him and extend the same to others.

Day #30. The Victory through one act. Romans 5:18-19.

*‘Jesus came to give righteousness not to condemn the unrighteous.’ Mac Canoza.*

The lion’s victory came through one man’s act disobedience and the lions defeat was realized through one man’s act of obedience. One act of obedience or disobedience makes the difference. As we enjoyed the festive season, there are people who are devastated because of one act of disobedience. And on the flip side, there are those who escaped much because of one act of obedience. When you examine your life through the festivity period, what side of the coin have you been?

Day #31. The Victory of God’s Presence. Joshua 1:9.

*‘God, who is everywhere, never leaves us. Yet He seems sometimes to be present, sometimes to be absent. If we do not know Him well, we do not realize that He may be more present to us when He is absent than when He is present.’ Thomas Merton.*

When Moses, the Lord’s servant died, Joshua was chosen to lead God’s people into the Promised Land. This was a humongous transition for him and as he stood there listening to God, He said to him, ‘Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD you God will be with you wherever you go.’ This gave him hope and an inspiration to move. The year is coming to an end and we are looking into the future and the New Year. You may not have felt God’s presence as you went through different challenges this year, (though he’s always present), but listen to God’s voice as he talks to Joshua. He is also talking to you. ‘Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified, do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.’

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMASS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!