**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Peter 5:6-11 (v.8 - “your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour”)

**SERMON:** THE LION’S LUNCH

The lion is called the king of the jungle, the conqueror of all beast, and the master hunter in the forest. The lion knows how to intimidate other animals by his loud roaring and crafty roaming as only this large cat can do. The king of the jungle protects the lioness and cubs in the pride or family. With all of his duties and demands, there come a time that he must have bite to eat. So, the lion lies low in the thickets and grasses of the forest and waits patiently for his next meal to show up.

**Introduction:** I want to center our thoughts today on the figure of speech, that the Holy Spirit prompted the Apostle Peter to use in referring to Satan. Our adversary, as a roaring lion, is walking about seeking whom he may devour. He is looking for his next meal. He is hungry and devouring people everyday! As our society becomes more and more wicked, the lion has quite an array of sinners, backsliders and hypocrites who become his "fast food" meals. Like a teenager who picks up a burger and fries at McDonald, the lion is happy to pick up a high school kid who goes to a party and tries binge drinking for the first time--passing out to never regain consciousness. It's a TV dinner for the devil to enjoy when a drug addict shoots up his last time or when a hopeless businessman puts the barrel of a shotgun to his head and pulls the trigger, or when a prostitute believes the lie of her pimp for the last time. In fact, it's not even a challenge for him. It's just "fast food." Nothing to write home about. Only an appetizer--it doesn't even satisfy him. Proverbs 27:20 states, "Hell and destruction are never full!"

But, when the lion wants a "gourmet lunch" you know who he goes after? A Christian! A preacher is a delicacy! A Sunday School teacher is delectable! A deacon or deaconess is ambrosia! A church musician provides entertainment and is delicious! The one in the "Amen" corner is simply scrumptious! A kid who's been raised in church is a choice and yummy morsel! The lion really enjoys his specially prepared dessert - A missionary; all washed up, all cleaned up, all made up and all dressed up; and looking all good, pious, self righteous and sanctimonious! A missionary is good to the last bite. All of these make up a luncheon buffet, a smorgasbord of food for the lion’s voracious and ravenous appetite.

He doesn't care how long it takes to get this meal. He doesn't care how long he has to "walk about" seeking, as the Scripture says. He knows this meal will be worth the wait.
QUESTIONS - Let’s take a closer look at the lion.

FIRST, WHO IS THIS LION?
He is the subject of endless curiosity, speculation, and discussion.
He is the major spirit of evil, the ruler of Hell, and a foe of God.
He is the supreme ruler of evil spiritual power.
He is a fallen angel who existed in Heaven with God.
He is called - Beelzebub - the wicked one - the prince of power of the air -
the god of this world - the great dragon - the tempter - the Prince of
Darkness - lucifer - Satan - and the devil. He enjoys and benefits from the
his disguises and anonymity. For you know about him, but you don’t really
know him - you see him daily, but he remains out of focus in spite of your
20-20 vision - you hear him, but you deny listening to him - you even work
for him, but may I remind you that, “The wages of sin is death”.

SECOND, HOW DOES THE LION, THE DEVIL, PREPARE HIS LUNCH?
Let me tell you right here that, he does not use - bread - mayonnaise -
mustard - ketchup - salt and pepper - nor does he top off his meal with
lettuce, tomatoes, pickles and onions. He prepares his lunch by using:

I. DECEPTIONS. We live in a day of great deceptions (fakers - counterfeits -
phoneys - imposters - pretenders - and just a lot of BS, and I do mean the
bull kind). How can we keep from being deceived? Listen to Paul’s advice to
Timothy in II Tim. 2:10-26. Deception comes when we are not grounded in
the Word of God! Even some Christians are like those mentioned in Eph.
4:14, "tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by
the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to
deceive."

II. DELUSIONS. The devil loves to see people live under a delusion
(fantasizing - wishful thinking - daydreaming - stargazing - and living by the
horoscope of an astrological sign). This is a warped mental state. Some have
delusions of grandeur. Others really think they are somebody! Listen to what
Paul said in Romans 12:2-3. Don’t allow yourself to become deceived or
deluded! We need the mind of Christ! Jesus taught us by example that the
greatest among us should be our servant. Pride goeth before destruction and
a haughty spirit before a fall. Satan began the great delusion when he
thought he could dethrone God! That spirit of rebellion will send you to hell.
God says in I Sam. 15:23, "Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and
stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry." Delusion will cause you to become
food for the lion.

III. DISSATISFACTIONS. Who would have ever thought it?! The wisest man
who every lived fell for this tactic of the enemy. Solomon proclaims in Ecclesiastes, “Vanity of vanities saith the Preacher, all is vanity—for when I looked on all the works of my hands, all was vanity and vexation of the spirit. The devil loves it when you are dissatisfied with:

A. Your possessions - House is too small- Car is too old - Not enough money
B. Your position - Janitor becomes environmental tech - clerk is economic assistance
C. Your partner - Soul-mate - husband - wife - better-half - marriage - lover
D. Your pastor - Find fault with his sermons, teaching, preaching, singing, counsel
E. Your place of worship - Church pews - church lights - building - location - the church.

IV. DEPRESSION. This was Elijah's problem. Some of our greatest depressions in life come after our greatest victories. Elijah had just prayed down fire from heaven and God consumed the sacrifice and the altar. And a while later he's saying, God, it's enough. I don't want to live anymore. I just want to die. Has anyone here ever been almost there (feeling - hopeless - helpless - unwanted - unappreciated -unnecessary - unessential - and unloved? It can happen - to the strongest and weakest of us - to sinners and saints - to laity and clergy - to great and small - rich and poor - you and me). Yet, just know that God is able to deliver you from lion’s lunch using depression. He delivered Elijah and He will deliver you!

V. DISAPPOINTMENTS. This was how Satan got Judas. Don't ever think that Judas was a devil from the beginning. He wasn't. In fact, He was a jack-legged preacher. A divine healer. He cast out devils by the power of God. It wasn't until he realized that Jesus wasn't going to overthrow the Roman government and give him his place in the kingdom, that his attitude changed. He decided to get what was his while He could. While Jesus washed his feet, he was making his plans to betray Him. He didn't become demon possessed until after the communion service. It was there that he betrayed Jesus in his heart. He later betrayed him with a kiss, disappointed that Jesus had not made good on his promises to him about sitting on a throne and ruling in the kingdom of God. Friend, be careful about what disappoints you in serving God! Jesus said in Luke 7:23, "Blessed is he whosoever shall not be offended in me." The devil can use disappointments to snare you and devour you.

You don't have to be the lion’s next meal! These five warning signals in your life will keep you from the Lion's mouth.
THIRD, WHO BECOMES THE LION’S LUNCH?
The Small - Newborn Christians and the young who are not strong enough yet to avoid the lion.
The Slow - Persons who are not alert enough or quick enough to avoid the lion.
The Sickly - Those who are sick and weak, and just not able to run away from the lion.
The Stragglers - Those who have wandered away from the fellowship and protection of the group are easy prey for the lion.
The Solitary - Those who never run in the herd, that is to say those members and missionaries who are loners, will not last where the lion lives.

FOURTH, WHEN DOES THE LION FEED?
Behavioral Patterns of the Lion, and how he feeds & stalks, gives you insight into devil’s activities as it relates to the saints of God.

WHEN THE FIRE GOES OUT, THE LIONS MOVE IN
When the fire is burning hot, people are talking about what God is showing them, Scriptures they have read, God using them in witnessing. But something happens where they become overly-familiar with the fire and don’t continue to put logs on the fire.

Revelation 2:1-4
1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;
2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:
3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name”s sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.
4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.
5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.
WHERE STRAGGLERS ROAM AND RAMBLE, LIONS FEED
In Africa, the lion will lay out watching herds. The lion knows his own strength, but he also knows the strength of numbers. When he looks at a herd of zebras, he knows if he attacks one and the herd stampedes, they would trample him. Then he sees one rebelliously remove himself and independently feed away from the herd. When that zebra gets far enough away from the pack, the lion pounces on him, pulls it into the tall grass, goes for the jugular, and has begun eating the meat, before the herd even knew what happened. Stay in the strength of fellowship. Don’t be a straggler and remove yourself from the family of God. The lion is watching.

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

WHERE BUFFALOES ARGUE, LIONS FEED
When buffaloes become aware of a marauding lion, they make a circle and lock their horns. When they sense a lion is lurking, they instinctively lock their horns and put their hind quarters in and make a big circle. The babies are inside the circle of protection of the buffaloes. Whenever there is a male & female buffalo with a disagreement and are being stubborn, there is a gap in the circle. The lion will keep circling until he finds a gap and the lion will rush in, and the buffaloes will rush off, and stampede and leave their young vulnerable. Where there is stubbornness, contention, constant bickering, the devil moves in to feed.

WHEN OUR FATHER’S WORD IS DISOBEYED, LIONS MOVE IN
There was a boy one day in the field with his father in Zimbabwe, he said dad I know there’s a lot of chores to setup camp, but I saw a deer, will you give me permission to go kill that deer and bring back meat for the whole camp tonight? The father said, "NO, it is too late, come back and help setup camp."
The boy disobeyed and went into the field and fired a shot and the deer fell. As the boy approached the deer, it ran off into the woods and the boy pursued it. It became dark and he lost his way in the woods. The smell of the blood brought three lions and the boy climbed up the tree. He stayed in that tree all night with only three bullets left in his gun. When morning came the boy knew he needed to fire a shot so his father would know where he was. He used his remaining two bullets to kill two of the three lions. As the third lion angrily pounced toward the tree, the father came out of the field and shot the third lion. As he was getting his son from the tree, he pushes the tree and it crashes down because it was infested with termites.
God is not trying to keep you from having fun. God knows where the mine fields are. He knows if you do what He forbids, you will lose your life, soul-mate, health, joy. It doesn’t mean you are destroyed forever, but that you may be in intensive care for a while.

**CLOSING: A LION IS ON THE LOOSE**

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour: The lion needs a lunch.

Several years ago, one of our state paper had an article in it which said, "there’s a mountain lion loose in the NW part of our county. It is killing rabbits, dogs and even attacking horses." When I read that article, I thought, yes and there is a lion on the loose in our world, He’s not a mountain lion, but the devil and he’s attacking Christians, and attempting to destroy everything that is good.

In our text, the devil is compared to a wild vicious lion stalking about looking for victims who he can destroy, devour and consume. The devil attempts to attack Christians.

**I-THE DEVIL ATTEMPTS TO DISTORT YOUR THINKING:**

1-He does not want us to get a picture of his true character. He wants us to think he is just a big joke.

2-Flip Wilson used to say, "the devil made me do it". But the fact is, the devil is no laughing matter.

3-But on the other hand, sometimes, we give him to much credit We make him too powerful.

4-Writing in Moody Monthly, Carl Armerding recounted his experience of watching a wildcat in a zoo. "As I stood there," he said, "an attendant entered the cage through a door on the opposite side. He had nothing in his hands but a broom. Carefully closing the door, he proceeded to sweep the floor of the cage." He observed that the worker had no weapon to ward off an attack by the beast. In fact, when he got to the corner of the cage where the wildcat was lying, he poked the animal with the broom. The wildcat hissed at him and then lay down in another corner of the enclosure. Armerding remarked to the attendant, "You certainly are a brave man." "No, I ain’t brave," he replied as he continued to sweep. "Well, then that cat
must be tame." "No," came the reply, "he ain‟t tame." "If you aren‟t brave and the wildcat isn‟t tame, then I can‟t understand why he doesn‟t attack you." Armerding said the man chuckled, then replied with an air of confidence, "Mister, he‟s old--and he ain‟t got no teeth."

5-Well the devil has some teeth, he has some power, but only God is all powerful.

6-If the devil had all power, he would destroy every Christian this very moment.

7-God has all knowledge, but the devil doesn‟t. God has all presence, but the devil doesn‟t.

II-THE DEVIL ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY YOUR PEACE:

1-There is nothing like peace, to have that feeling that everything is all right.

2-The devil doesn‟t want us to have peace with God. Thus he tries to deceive us and get us to sin. When we fall into his trap, we have the peace of God taken away. The only thing that will restore it is that we follow David‟s formula in Psalms 51, “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me”.

4-Monkey trappers in North Africa have a clever method of catching their prey. A number of gourds are filled with nuts and firmly fastened to a branch of a tree. Each has a hole just large enough for the unwary monkey to stick his forepaw into it. When the hungry animal discovers this, he quickly grasps a handful of nuts, but the hole is too small for him to withdraw his clenched fist. And he doesn‟t have enough sense to open up his hand and let go of the nuts in order to escape, so he is easily taken captive.

This is a picture of many Christians. The devil with his crafty devices tried to ensnare them. He appeals to the appetites of the flesh which can lead to their spiritual downfall. As long as they hold on to worldly bait, they cannot escape from Satan‟s trap. But he keeps on urging, "Don‟t let go! Enjoy the pleasure of your sin just a little bit longer!" So, listening to the tempter‟s alluring voice, they continue in their evil way.

Dear friend, are you caught up in sinful practices that are destroying your testimony and preventing you from growing in grace? Stop and think it over. Get out of Satan‟s trap now while you still have a chance.

III-THE DEVIL ATTEMPTS TO DENY YOUR FAITH:
1-He doesn’t want you know for sure that your are saved. He wants you be miserable in not knowing for sure whether you are saved or not.

2-He will come from time to time, and whisper in your ear, you are not saved, you are a phony.

3-He knows that a Christian who is doubting will never be a force in Gods’ work.

4-A Christian from China was giving his testimony and he said, "I had slipped into a great ditch and the ditch was sin." Buddha came along and said, "Come up half way and I will lift you up." Muhammad came along and said, "Here are five pillars that will get you out." But I couldn’t get up on those five pillars. Confucius came along and said, "You’re not really in that ditch, you just think you’re in that hole." But I was still there in the ditch of sin. Then Jesus came by and saw my predicament. He didn’t say a word but laid aside his regal robes and got down in the ditch along with the sin and the mire, and he lifted me out of that ditch by His grace.

5-The same God who saved us out of the ditch of sin, will keep us all the way. When the devil come and tries to get us to doubt our salvation, we need to take him back to that day we were saved, and tell him, its settled. We are in God’s hand, and that’s safety, that’s good enough for me.

**IV-THE DEVIL ATTEMPTS TO DISPLAY YOUR FAILURES:**

1-He is always trying to bring up your past sins. He wants you to think you will still be judged for them.

2-I was preaching in a revival when an unusual thing happen to me. I was in the pulpit waiting to preach. While the special music was being rendered, my mind went back to the time I was in the Air Force in southeast Asia during the Vietnam conflict. At that time, I was not completely saved. I was on my way with a couple of friends one Sunday night when we passed by a Church. The pastor invited us to Church, but we made a little fun of him. The devil impressed upon my mind that I was not worthy to stand and preach the gospel for I did when I was incompletely saved. That I had done a terrible thing, and now I am trying to preach. But God at the same time spoke to my heart, and said, those sins are under the blood of my Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. You preach the Message that I’ve laid upon your heart. I did, and God greatly blessed the service with souls being saved.

3-When the devil comes like that, we needs to tell him, no fishing allowed in our past life. God has wiped our slate clean when we confessed our sins and when His Son died on the Old Rugged Cross way back on Calvary.
4-The next time the devil reminds you of your past, remind him of his future.

**V-THE DEVIL ATTEMPTS TO DAMAGE YOUR TESTIMONY:**

1-On the day of Pentecost after the 120 had prayed for 10 days, they went into Jerusalem and gathered the people together and Peter preached and 3,000 souls were saved.

2-I don’t know who Peter went to and invited, but I imagine he didn’t go to those who had been gathered around the fire at the trial of Jesus. He had let the devil damage his testimony when he denied Jesus in front of them.

3-When a Christian begins to start missing on Wednesday nights, and then on Sunday nights, the devil just laughs because its just a matter of time that Christian will lose their influence for Christ.

**VI-THE DEVIL ATTEMPTS TO DELAY YOUR PARDON:**

1-Of course the devil tries to delay the pardon of the lost person. He doesn’t want to have a person sins forgiven, he doesn’t want them to be saved.

2-THERE IS NO HURRY-The parable of the procrastinator is retold, wherein three devils try to conquer the world: "The first devil went around proclaiming the message, "There is no God!" But even tough few people acted as if there was a God, they knew in their hearts that this message was not true.""The second devil announced "There is no sin!" And again, although many people acted as if the message were true, they knew deep down that it wasn’t.""The third devil was smarter than the other two. He didn’t attempt to change people’s beliefs. He made no attempt to argue against their deepest convictions. He simply said, "There is no hurry.

**VII-THE DEVIL ATTEMPTS TO DIM YOUR FUTURE:**

1-He wants to get your mind off the prospects of Heaven. Instead of having joy and happiness about looking forward to heaven, he wants you to forget that you are going - to a "land fairer than day", - to that "city where the streets are paved with gold,” - to a place where joy will never end - to a city not made by hands -to place with leaves on a tree that heals all manner of disease - to be with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion-There is a lion loose today, and he trying to defeat you, to bind
you, to keep you from becoming what God would have you to be. Satan promises the best, but pays with the worst; he promises honor and pays with disgrace; he promises pleasure and pays with pain; he promises profit and pays with loss; he promises life and pays with death. But we can overcome him through our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ as we put on the whole armor of God.

Something occurred to me. I have never seen nor heard of one sheep, nor a herd of sheep killing a lion. I have never heard of sheep feeding on lion. It’s always the lion that kills the sheep that fits into the lion’s bag lunch or lunch box.

**FINAL CLOSING**

Let us never assume that we are stronger than the lion, our adversary. **NEVER allow his**

-sight to see you - search to smell you - chase to catch you - grasp to hold you
- tongue to taste you - teeth to crush you - throat to swallow you - stomach to digest you - and never let his lunch be you! **NEVER ALLOW HIS**

- DECEPTIONS to derail you - DELUSIONS to detain you - DISSATISFACTIONS to detour you - DEPRESSIONS to destroy you - and DISAPPOINTMENTS to deny that God lives

**SONG:** I serve a risen Savior, He’s in the world today. I know that He is living, whatever others say. I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer, and just the time I need Him, He always near. He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me, and talks with me along life’s narrow way. He lives, He lives; salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives, He lives within my heart.

And, because He lives **I CAN FACE**

- Tomorrow - Today - Tragedies - Heartaches - Hard-times - Persecution - Backbiting

And, I CAN FACE MY ADVERSARY, SATAN.

**BECAUSE HE LIVES, ALL FEAR IS GONE, BECAUSE I KNOW WHO HOLDS THE**
FUTURE, AND LIFE IS WORTH THE LIVING, JUST BECAUSE HE LIVES!