

dedicated his whole life to the living God. The writer of the Hebrews names him as one of God's great spiritual heroes who triumphed through faith. He was strong only when the hair, the symbol of his covenant relationship with God, remained untouched. When the sign was destroyed his strength went from him and he became like a little child.

Samson's riddle was closely connected with one of his feats of strength. He gave it for an answer at a feast, according to Eastern custom as a pastime. But riddles in early days were valuable as a means of imparting instruction as well, and were held in high esteem. The reference was to the slaying of the lion of Timnath and to the honey, which he afterwards obtained from its mummified body. "Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness."

There are many lessons connected with the incident—

(1) There is a foe in every path. Samson met the young lion at the vineyards of Timnath. He was fierce and hungry and seeking prey. So Satan, the great enemy of souls, is pictured as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. But just as the lion raised its note of warning and roared upon Samson, which as Gordon Cumming tells us when he is seeking prey, is a roar at once loud, deep-toned and solemn, so temptation comes to us not without warning. The Scriptures everywhere tell us of Temptation and its awful power, and the voice of Jesus like a danger signal tells us to beware of the wiles of the Evil One.

(2) There is victory through faith. Samson rent the lion as he would have rent a kid. He met the king of beasts weaponless and alone, he met him when his courage is the greatest, when suffering from the pangs of hunger, and he came forth victorious from the conflict, triumphing in the strength of God. And so in real life we overcome our spiritual enemies not in our own strength, which at best is weakness, but through the power of the Holy Spirit. Christ met Satan and foiled him at every point with the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. And when we look to Christ in faith that victory be-

comes ours. Just as the soldiers of Marathon thought that they saw two pale horsemen leading them to victory, as they fiercely charged the foe, so the Christian as he faces the hosts of evil and draws from the armory of God his sword, finds that he has Christ at his side.

(3) There is strength to be gained out of temptation, and blessing out of trial. "Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness." The honey out of the dried up carcass of the lion refreshed the weary man in his journey. The conflict with the man-eater gave him confidence in God which he had never known before, and taught him how to use his heaven-given powers. And so, when temptation comes and we meet it in a right spirit, it may become the means of strengthening our faith, as we turn from self, in its weakness, and remember that the Lord God omnipotent reigneth, and humbly trust in Jesus Christ our Saviour, who has all power in heaven and on earth. It is said that when the best oak is required for naval purposes, the wood which is sought is not the forest oak, which has been protected on every side and has never known the full effect of the fierce storm, but the pasture grown oak, over which all the storms and winds have passed. And the reason is plain. The storm causes the tree to send its roots into the earth and it takes a firmer hold. And so the time of trial sends the Christian to God, and his faith becomes the firmer, and his character is strengthened, and he gains a stronger grasp of saving truth. The diamond in the rough gives forth no radiance, but when it is cut and polished it reflects the bright rays of light, and so the Christian life may become the mightier through stress and trial.

COME OVER—OVERCOME.

Voices keep crying, "Come over." A voice came from Europe to Paul in Asia Minor, "Come over and help us." Voices cry from heaven, "Come over and rest and reign."

Come over the sea of trouble, of darkness and danger.

Come over the River Jordan and

eat the old corn of the land.

Come away from toil, and strife, and sin.

Come away from disappointment, and disease, and death.

Come. You are invited. Jesus bids you come.

Come. You are commanded. Jesus commands you to be called.

Come. Your time is short; your life is a hand-breadth, a vapor, a dream.

Come. Let not earth deceive, detain, destroy.

Overcome. Here the order is reversed. The invitation changed into a condition. This must be noted, or you will never come or find a welcome.

To overcome is to know your enemy, his designs and resources. "We are not ignorant of his devices." This is true only of the enlightened man.

To overcome means to fight in the holy war. "So fight I, not as one that beateth the air, but I keep under my body."

To overcome is to live by plan, "Father, I know that all my life is portioned out by thee." Act on that maxim and you will be right.

To overcome, you must have knowledge of yourself. Knowledge is power. If you do not know yourself, you know nothing well.

To overcome, you must be personally acquainted with Him who said, "I have overcome the world."

To overcome, you must be well acquainted with the contents of the great armory, "Neither wise men nor fools can work without tools."

The Bible is a sword—the sword of the Spirit. It has a double edge; it is a self-sharpener—a human grinds one will only blunt the edge. Faith is a mighty shield, defending against fiery darts and red-hot shot. The helmet is the hope of salvation, defends the eye, helps it to see afar off.

Humility is a great garment; it covers the whole body and smothers pride. Let this holy garment fold over a heart of instant, constant, incessant prayer!

To overcome at last, we must triumph as we go.

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