

FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS  
ADULTS MAY READ

THE TWO SPIDERS

Once upon a time, in a church, it is said, two spiders were out for a walk, and they met in the middle of the aisle. One spider looked fat and well, the other thin and miserable.

"Good afternoon," said the fat spider, cheerfully, "you look very ill. What is the matter?"

"Well," said the thin spider, "to tell you the truth, I really am very unwell."

"Indeed, I am sorry to hear it; tell me what has upset you."

The thin spider took a good look round to see if he was quite safe before he began his tale:

"I live with my wife and family in a corner of the pulpit," he said, "and for a short time we were very happy and comfortable; but now someone comes into the pulpit and talks very loudly, books are moved about, and sometimes the cushions are hammered, so that altogether my nerves are quite upset. I am always in fear my home will be destroyed, and some of my little ones injured, and even killed outright."

"Oh!" said the fat spider, "that is very serious. Of course, you must move! Come and live with me. There's plenty of room, and no disturbances, and I am sure you would be welcome."

"Where do you live?" said the thin spider. "I might get to be as fat as you if I had no worry."

"Why, I live in the Missionary Box, and from year's end to year's end we are never disturbed. That is why I am so well!"

So the thin spider joined the fat spider, and they lived quite comfortably together in the Missionary Box.

But far away across the sea people were dying without hearing that Jesus loved them. Now would it not be sad if we left OUR Missionary Box alone so long that we forgot it, and spiders came and spun their webs there,

Are there any spiders in YOUR Missionary Box?—Selected

LET YOUR ACTIONS SHINE

I would not give much for your religion unless it can be seen. Lamps do not talk, but they do shine. A lighthouse sounds no drums, it beats no gong, and yet, far over the water its friendly spark is seen by the mariner. So let your actions shine out your religion. Let the main sermon of your life be illustrated by your conduct, and it shall not fail to be illustrious.—C. H. Spurgeon.

Cease meddling with God's plan and will. You touch anything of His, and you mar the work. You may move the hands of a clock to suit you, but you do not change the time; so you may hurry the unfolding of God's will, but you harm and do not help the work. You can open a rose, but you spoil the flower. Leave all to Him. Hands down. Thy will, not mine.—Stephen Merritt.

BEWARE OF LAPSE

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... " (Prov. 29:18). Spiritual vision causes one to **"see the Lord, . . . high and lifted up."** It gives one an insight into self, and causes him to cry, **"Woe is me! for I am undone: . . ."** Then comes the supernatural "touch" and one "sees" the need for spreading the Gospel.

The normal response of the man with "vision" to the call of God is, **"Here am I: send me."** But the man who has fallen asleep in the lap of the world is oblivious both to the danger to himself, and the necessity for his "going." Oh, the danger of using the eyes to "look with lust" until the "heavenly vision" is completely obscured. Lord, touch our eyes, restore our vision, awaken us from our dangerous sleep, that we may escape the "Philistines" (sometimes called Communists, sometimes Modernists, and by other names) and go **"SEEING."**

IV. HIS Fourth Loss was His Service

Samson's mother was apprised of his coming by an angel of the Lord before he was even conceived. He said to her, **"For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son . . . and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines"** (Judges 13:5). His service record is replete with the great feats by which he punished the Philistines and helped to alleviate the condition of Israel. However, his record is marred by his lapses, and Ezekiel tells us, **"When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness and commit iniquity, . . . he shall die of his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered . . ."** (Ezekiel 3:20). Many men of ability have followed Samson and have lost the reward for their service because they have turned from following God.

But there is another aspect to this loss of service. **" . . . the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house"** (Judges 16:21). Not only then is his opportunity to serve God gone, but he is grinding (corn) for the enemy. May I say that every man who lapses "grinds for the enemy." I have heard church members talk about other church members, and in so doing they were "grinding in the prison house." I have known them to do evil and by doing it have made great contribution to the enemy. Oh! God keep our service record free from lapses, and may our spirits remain "free from fetters of brass," to give unhindered service in the Kingdom of our God.

V. His Fifth Loss was His Status

He lost his status with God and God left him. (Judges 16:20). He lost his status with the enemy also. **"And it came to pass when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport; and they set him between two pillars"** (Judges 16:25).

Jesus said: **"For which of you intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build and was not able to finish."** (Luke 14:28-30). The world is not pleased with the Christian who backslides. As a matter of fact one who lapses may expect the enemy to

SERVE WHERE YOU ARE

A policeman in Birmingham, becoming a Christian, was so greatly troubled by the sights and sounds of sin among which he worked that for a long time he and his wife prayed, "Lord, take me out of the police service. Give me some other work."

Still no answer came and no other work was opened for him. At last he said to his wife:

"I think we have been making a great mistake. We have been praying that I may be taken out of the force, and I begin to think that He has put me there to work. Now I am just going to pray that He will help me to serve where I am."

That was the beginning of a life of marvelous usefulness. His influence over the men was so great that he was promoted to be the head of detectives. He was instrumental in the salvation of many criminals. The place where God has put you is the place where you can do the best service for Him.—Selected.

"WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?"

**Youth:** Too happy to think—time enough!

**Manhoon:** Too busy to think—more money first!

**Maturity:** Too anxious to think—Worry over work.

**Declining Years:** Too aged to think—fixed habits.

**As Death Approaches:** Too ill to think—weak and suffering.

**Death:** Too late to think—the spirit has flown.

**Eternity:** Forever to think—God's judgment day.

make sport, for no one expects a quitter. The Apostle Paul exhorts: **"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong"** (I. Cor. 16:13).

Maltbie V. Babcock has aptly put it into verse:

"Be strong!

We are not here to play, to dream, to drift.  
We have hard work to do and loads to lift;  
Shun not the struggle, face it; 'tis God's gift.

"Be strong!

Say not the days are evil. Who's to blame?  
And fold the hands, and acquiesce; O shame!  
Stand up, speak out, and bravely, in God's name.

"Be strong!

It matters not how deep entrenched the wrong,  
How hard the battle goes, the day how long;  
Faint not, fight on! Tomorrow comes the song."

**"Finally, my brethren BE STRONG IN THE LORD, AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT"** (Eph. 6:10). The Apostle Paul had recognized the craft and strength of the enemy and was alert to human weakness. He had learned that **"without Christ he could do nothing,"** but that he could **"do all things through Christ who strengtheneth."** Therefore, **"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil"** (Eph. 6:11). There are many convenient laps around to bring about lapse. But remember Samson's losses and BEWARE OF LAPSE.—Heart and Life.