

FIGHTING THE EVIL OF HELL

Adapted from Level 4 of a Family Lesson on Mark 1

Did you know that when the Lord went to be baptized, He was getting Himself ready to be attacked by forces of terrible fierceness? Throughout the Lord's life in the world, He was fighting (and winning) against the forces of hell. In Mark 1:12 we read that after His baptism, the Lord was "with the wild beasts." Make no mistake about it. This was a horrible attack from the forces of hell.

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. The Word tells us that wolves, panthers, tigers, and lions are among the animals that are seen in hell because their ferocity pictures the destructive nature of evil (see *True Christian Religion* 78; *Apocalypse Explained* 1200:3).

Application

1. Read the passage below from the *True Christian Religion* 123.

"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 person 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)."

2. Draw a few pictures, even if they are the simplest outline sketches, to portray the titanic battle of history. The first sketch should be of a fierce animal that pictures the forces of evil. (*You could use cut-out pictures if you can find them, or even computer clip-art*).

Make your animals look horrible. We are not really talking just about animals, but about something fierce that can be pictured by animals.

"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." (*TCR* 123)

3. Read the following passage from *True Christian Religion* (68). These comparisons portray a tremendous truth. It is really true that without the Lord's help we are powerless against hell.

We have no more power against evil 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"

4. Now draw a picture of a flea and a whale or one of the other comparisons. A collage of all these comparisons would be interesting. 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.