

Pastor's Corner

Resisting Temptation

December 2, 2009

Dear Friend,

It's been some time since I've written a Pastor's Corner. I've been busy this past summer and the Pastor's Corner has been put on the back burner. I really appreciate all the e-mails from folks telling me how much you miss them, and so here we go again! I hope that you will be blessed by our Pastor's Corners.

This past month there have been a few coyotes that have moved in pretty close to our place. Now, that's nothing new, there have always been coyotes in the hills around us, but what makes these coyotes different is that they are pretty mean to my neighbor's dogs. They eat their food, and start fights with them. One of their dogs is pretty old and has arthritis in his legs, and they like to knock him over and bite him. So my neighbor asked me to see what I can do to help them find a new home.

So I bought this big trap. Now, this is not one of those traps that hurts an animal, like grabs them by their leg or anything. No, it's a big, nice cage with a door that folds down when the animal gets inside. The plan is to catch the beast, then put him into the back of my truck and take him to a park area where the state says to relocate him. Or at least those were my plans.

I took the trap last evening out to the field and put a bowl of dog food with fish, beef and ham inside. Nice and smelly, just what a coyote would like. I set the door open, and left the trap. Then this morning, as soon as it became light, I put on my coat and shoes and trotted out to see if I had anything in my trap.

As I got closer, I saw that the door was shut, which means something had gotten in. But I didn't see anything in the trap. When I got to the trap, I realized something had gotten in, eaten all my nice smelly dog food, and then had gotten out. The door was bent, the springs were broken, and the hinges were out of their places. The ground was torn up around the trap. What ever had been caught decided to get out, and he sure did!

As I walked home disappointed, I started thinking about temptation and my trap. I was planning on catching that coyote by tempting him into my trap with some nice food, and then I guess I just expected my trap to hold him until I could load him into the truck and cart him off. But he had other plans. He got into my temptation, but he didn't stay there. He did everything he could to get out. And now I wonder if I can lure him in again, especially since Mr. Coyote has a reputation for being pretty smart.

But a lot of us are not like that coyote. We get into temptation, and then we just settle in like there is nothing we can do about it. We take a victim attitude, when we should be taking a survivor attitude. As soon as we find ourselves in temptation, we need to cry out to Jesus in prayer, ask others for their help, and don't rest until we are free. I don't think that coyote curled up for a nice nap after his meal, but instead exerted every ounce of energy to free himself. He had only one goal, and that was to be free, and in the process he destroyed the trap. You and I can do the same!

You are tempted in the same way that everyone else is tempted. But God can be trusted not to let you be tempted too much, and He will show you how to escape from your temptations.

1 Corinthians 10:13, CEV

With Christ's help, you can be an overcomer today!

We're praying for you!

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