

Comfortable in The Enemy's Camp

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Mark 14:53-54, "And they led Jesus away to the high priest: and with him were assembled all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes. And Peter followed him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest: and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire."

What do you think of when you read this scripture? Can you picture Peter sitting amid the servants near the fire? While his mind had to be troubled at the recent events, he was making himself as comfortable as he could as he waited to see what would happen. It was cold and so he shared the warmth of the fire with those who served the priests, the men who hated Jesus.

It is easy for us to condemn Peter and to see his mistakes as we sit back and read of the things that happened on that night. He had just bragged about now he would not deny the Lord and would face any danger with him, regardless of what the others would do. Yet, when the others ran in fear from those who arrested Jesus, Peter ran right along with them. He

knew that they wanted to kill Jesus and was afraid for his own life as well. Fear forced out his confidence that he had talked about when he disagreed with the Lord, saying, "I will even die with thee." It is one thing to talk about what we would do, but when the time comes to do it, things take on a different aspect that may change the way we respond. It certainly did with Peter.

So Peter may have been asking himself just what had happened. The things that took place happened so fast that there was no time to think and so he ran, forgetting his promise to stand by the Lord. Now he found himself in the presence of those who were against Jesus. He was very troubled in his mind because he had to find out what was going to happen to Jesus and at the same time he was afraid for his life. Of all the apostles Peter was the one who talked the most about what he would do and when he was put to the test he denied the Lord. John went in close to Jesus and was known to be a disciple of the Lord. He is not reported to have been questioned or bothered by anyone.

Like Peter we sometimes find ourselves comfortable in the enemy camp. Too many times we may not realize exactly what happened to get us there, but know that we are not where we should be. And we

should just face the fact that the things of the enemy of Christ don't really bother us as they should. Before you deny this do you turn off movies, or any programs, that mock the Lord and his church? How about vulgar language and sex scenes do you continue to watch them? I remember a man who told me years ago that he turned something off when his young children came in. Then he thought about it and decided that if it wasn't something that his children should see then he didn't need to watch it either.

I'm afraid that we have become so used to these things as they crept into our lives little by little through the years that we accepted it without realizing what was happening. There was a story once about an experiment in a university concerning a frog. It was put in a pan of water and the heat slowly turned up over a period of time. The frog sat there until the heat killed it. Another was put in the pan but since it was hot it jumped out and lived. If many of the things that we are exposed to today had been shown to us years ago we would have not accepted them. However since they came slowly into our society we didn't notice what was taking place. Now it seems to be normal to see and hear these things and many believers don't see much wrong with them.

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OTHNIEL'S TRIUMPH
WITH ALL OF HIS MEN PLACED STRATEGICALLY OTHNIEL HAS OPENED HIS ATTACK ON THE GIANTS' CITY...

FORWARD QUICKLY, MEN - DO NOT TARRY!

WHEN OTHNIEL LEADS - WE FOLLOW!

IN SHORT TIME, THE SCALING LADDERS ARE IN PLACE...

UP QUICKLY - FOR THE LORD HAST GIVEN US THE VICTORY!

BUT AS OTHNIEL'S MEN MOUNT THE LADDERS, THE GIANTS ATOP THE HIGH WALLS WAIT WITH HILARITY, KNOWING THAT THEY HAVE ALL THE ADVANTAGE!

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