

The Tomcat Method

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

My title may sound strange to you but if you have been around cats you will recognize what I'm talking about. I have noticed over many years that tomcats that we've had would leave for a day, or two, and then reappear. After a few days, or weeks, they would leave again and stay away longer, then come back. Each time the tomcat would stay away longer, return for a shorter period of time and finally leave, never to return. I have witnessed people who have done the same thing in church.

A person may be interested in the things of God and be faithful, or not, for a long time. Then the devil puts something interesting in their lives and they devote some time to it. For a time they split their time between "It", whatever it is, and the Lord. Then some of them will let the temptation take more and more of their time and effort. At last they will stop coming to church altogether, at least some do.

Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate

the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." **Matthew 6:24**. No man; that means me, you, or anybody. Jesus knew what he was talking about and gave this warning to the people. The Christian has one master, Jesus, and if he is our master then he is to have the leadership of our lives. When something, or someone, takes our devotion and service away from the Lord then we don't own him as our master anymore.

To continue to say that he is will only make us a liar too. It may start with a person reading the bible less. Satan will tell you that it's hard to understand and you can't remember it all anyway, right? Sound familiar? The person who falls for that doesn't seem to remember that he can't remember all of a newspaper, or book, but that doesn't stop him from reading those. Still, for awhile, a person will read a little of the bible, maybe a couple of the Psalms.

At the same time he will allow various things to keep him from church. When Jesus was first in his life he wouldn't let hardly anything stop him from worship, but now that he is dividing his time and effort, he misses church more and more. It gets easier the more one does it, until he doesn't even think of church much. A man who

does this may not even realize how far he has went down this path of danger. A dangerous path? Yes it is, for it leads away from the Lord, not toward him.

Satan is full of excuses and will provide plenty to the erring Christian. Have you heard these? "I'd like to come, but I'm too busy," or, how about this one, "I'm just not able to come, but I wish I could." I've seen quite a few through the years who could go everywhere that they wanted to go, except to church. One man said, "I've got some problems and when I get them settled, I'll be back." When we have problems, that's when we need to look to God even more.

In **Luke 12:34** Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Have you noticed any of these symptoms in your own life? If so wake up and see just where you are in your relationship with Jesus. Don't let the devil lead you away from the Lord with a few temporary pleasures of this life. If you find that you're losing interest in the Lord and his house of worship, talk to him about it. Remember as Peter said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." **John 6:68**.

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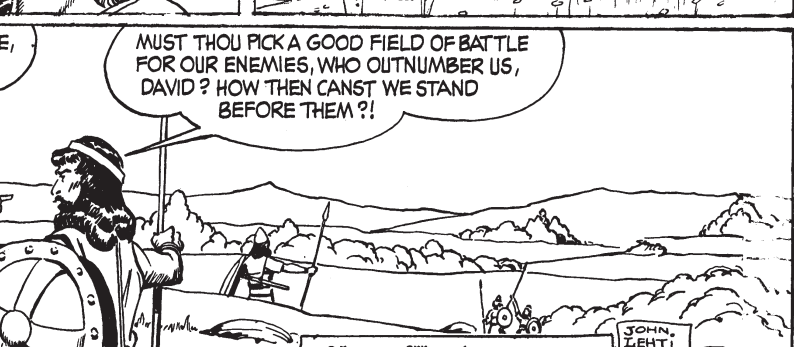
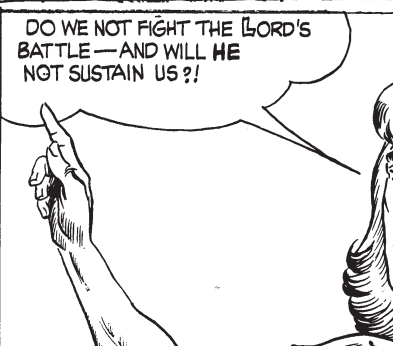
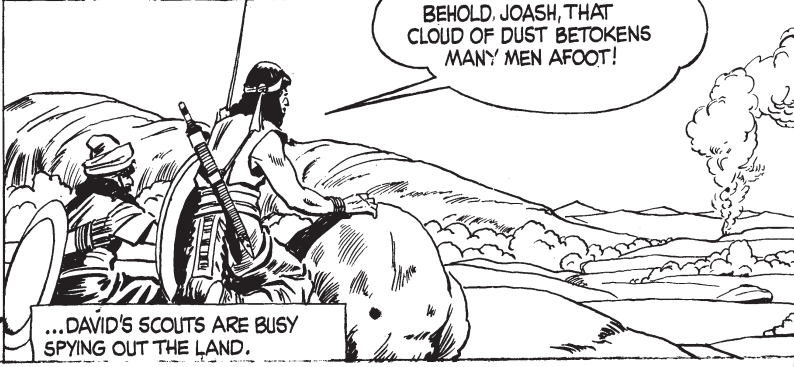
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