

## **In A Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day – Pt. 2** **II Samuel 23:2-23**

Last Sunday we looked at this obscure story of Benaiah in a pit with a lion on a snowy day. We learned the following lessons:

- a. God positions us in the right time at the right place.
  - b. God uses past experiences to prepare us for future opportunity.
  - c. Opportunities often are disguised as man-eating lions.
  - d. We are called to seize opportunities – to become lion chasers like Benaiah.
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1. Being on the threshold of opportunity. A man named Walter invited his friend Arthur to consider buying some undeveloped land in Southern California. Arthur declined. Thus Art Linkletter missed the opportunity to buy land surrounding Walt Disney's development!
  2. There are two types of sin – especially related to opportunity
    - a. Sins of Commission – things done that you regret.
    - b. Sins of Omission – Things not done that you wish you had done.
    - c. I am tired of Christianity being known more for what it is 'against' rather than for that which it is in favor.
      - i. We are reported as only having a list of "Don'ts"
      - ii. We seem to practice holiness by subtraction – be seeing what we can take away, deny, or "not do."
      - iii. You can do nothing wrong and still do nothing right!
    - d. Those who simply run away are often missing lion-sized opportunities that God is offering to us.

3. Lion-sized opportunities are –
  - a. Often disguised as problems.
  - b. Often time sensitive. Don't let hesitation become procrastination that leads to devastation.
  - c. Often tested by opposition. The Christian life is not problem-free nor opposition-free
  - d. Often missed because of fear
4. All God-ordained opportunities point toward the future.
  - a. God calls us to see and seize opportunity
    - i. Regrets are based on hindsight
    - ii. Risk is based on foresight
    - iii. Opportunity is based on Godly insight
  - b. God often desires to get us to the place where our strength is little so we can see His mighty power.
    - i. When we are weak He is strong.
  - c. There are things that we may do that are within our skill sets.
    - i. These are good and appropriate uses of our gifts of the Spirit
  - d. God often calls us to opportunities that are lion-sized (God-sized) so that only HE can accomplish them through us.
    - i. It is time for us to seize some God-sized opportunities to which He is calling us.
  - e. We have two choices
    - i. Walk in fear
      1. God has not given us a spirit of fear
    - ii. Walk in Faith