

GUNNPOINT

*Shooting Straight For The heart!
January 30, 2009*



Heidi's Corner

JOHN 1:1-5 Christ, the Eternal Word

1. In the beginning was the Word and The Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2. He existed in the beginning with God.
3. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.
4. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.
5. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

"The Word" - A phrase that expresses the absolute, eternal, and ultimate being of Jesus Christ (John 1:1-14; 1 John 1:1; Rev 19:13). The Old Testament spoke of the word of God as the divine agent in the creation of the universe: "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made" (Ps 33:6). In the New Testament, the Gospel of John declared, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

DARKNESS- is the absence of light. Darkness was also equated with death. In SHEOL the land of the dead, there is only darkness (Job 10:21-22; 38:17). Darkness symbolizes man's ignorance of God's will and, thus, is associated with sin (Job 24:13-17).

Darkness also describes the condition of those who have not yet seen the light concerning Jesus (John 1:4-5; 12:35; Eph 5:14) and those who deliberately turn away from the Light (John 3:19-20). (Col 1:13; 2 Peter 2:17). Living in extreme darkness describes those who at the end of time have not repented (Rev 16:10; 18:23).

Today's GunnPoint

This past hunting season could not have come too soon for me. Last year was one of the best years of ministry yet, in regards to the many people who came to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior, as well as the many lives that were positively changed for His glory. However 2008 was also a long year on the road and a year full of heavy challenges off the road. I was looking forward to hunting if for no other reason than to just get into the mountains, alone, and enjoy some long awaited peace and quiet and tranquility.

This year more than any other, I wasn't so intent to hunt as I was to just relax and be alone with God in some of His most beautiful creations. I took up a rookie horse along with a 2nd year youngster. I normally would not do this when hunting alone. My first choice would always be 2 trusted and proven veteran horses that I could completely trust. But there was a young mare that had never seen this kind of country before and she was of a calm spirit so I felt it was a good chance for her to learn. She learned well and took the pack saddle with no problem. The other youngster needed the time. The W Mountain Range is no walk in the park, especially with snow. It is steep at times and a long way up. Both horses would be anxious to get back to the simple life of arena competition before this hunting trip was over.

One morning, after a fresh snow through the night, I saddled the rookie mare, got my gear and rifle and then her and I began to ride the dark trail up the mountain to my favorite spot to watch the sun come up over the world. On the way up the trail, I stopped and got off the mare so she could blow a little. She was from the East and a much lower altitude. This trip up the mountain was causing her to breath pretty heavy.

I started leading her and came across a fresh set of Elk tracks. It was a big bull, a young bull and a couple of cows. The tracks were so fresh I was convinced we had spooked them. They were coming right at us and we were headed right for them on the same trail. I quickly mounted and began to follow the larger track that belonged to the big bull. In all my years of hunting, this was the biggest Elk track I had ever seen.

The bull didn't seem too spooked. His tracks were spaced pretty consistently and there was no urine or droppings. He was just moving steady and with a purpose. I tracked on horseback until we came to the side of a mountain that I wasn't feeling too comfortable trying out the rookie mare on. I had not proved her yet on this type of terrain, especially with the snow. I dismounted, tied her off in the open to a downed tree and began to follow those tracks on foot.

I tracked that Bull for a long time. I followed him over one ridge, then another and another. I kept looking back at where I had left that horse and knew I had to get back to her in time to get off that mountain and back to camp before dark. I never did get that bull. I knew I had to turn around and start back or I would never make it and that mare would get antsy as the sun began to set. I made it back to her, put my rifle in my scabbard, mounted up and rode back to camp. We made it just at dark.

The next morning I saddled the more experienced gelding, which had been proven in the mountainous terrain and rode out early to see if I could find that bull where I had to turn back the day before. When I got to the place where I tied the mare, I saw a fresh set of mountain lion tracks. I was taken back because this seemed to be a hunting season of "biggest." The Cougars tracks were the biggest Cat tracks I had ever seen. More importantly, in all the years I have hunted and played in those mountains, I had never seen a mountain lion come out in the open like it did. Mountain lions are very sly and they stalk, therefore they stay in the background or high above their prey. It was a hard winter and this mountain lion must have been very hungry to wander openly like that. I thought to myself, what if that Cat had come by yesterday when that mare was tied off? I got pretty somber and bowed my head and thanked God that he kept the horse (and me) safe and protected.

I continued on my way, hoping to find fresh elk tracks in the snow but to no avail. My horse and I went up and down through some major mountain ground and I never dismounted. He did great and I trusted him explicitly in the snow. As we were heading back, we passed the place where I saw those Lion tracks and continued heading toward camp. I am often looking down when I ride, to see possible tracks and signs of game. This time I saw some tracks that set me up in my saddle pretty straight. Right over my horse tracks that we had just made that morning, were another set of mountain lion tracks. As I rode down to camp I saw those tracks most all of the way. It was very unsettling when I realized that the Cougar had been stalking us that morning. He followed us for quite some time. An even more somber thought was that Cat had only one thing in mind, my death. The only thought I could think of was, that Lion wanted to devour me.

No matter how long I have been in those mountains, every once in a while I get all caught up with their beauty. Sometimes, as I travel through them, I forget that there are wild creatures who want my destruction for their satisfaction and I let my guard down. It was simple this past hunting season...I let my guards down. Because everything was so peaceful, so quiet, so tranquil I got sucked into a false peace due to everything going so well. Everything I wanted I had, and it felt so good to be there that I didn't stay alert to the very present dangers that surrounded me.

This simple lesson taught me again, the same is true in my Christian life. The Bible describes Satan as a roaring lion, seeking who he can devour. Here is what it actually says to us;

1 Peter 5:8-9 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

Too often when everything is going right and it seems life is smooth, Christians let down their guard. We forget that no matter how well God takes care of us, there is an enemy of our soul that is ever stalking us so that he can devour us. Another very important verse in God's Word regarding Satan is this;

John 10:10 - The thief (Satan) does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy

There is one thing, more than anything else; I want to say. There is a devil. He is real and he is out to keep us from Jesus, now and for all eternity. His greatest delight is to have us get so caught up with God's goodness and blessings in our life that we forget he is there, stalking us, sizing us up, waiting for our weakest moment so he can knock us down and devour us spiritually.

This world is a beautiful wilderness. God desires for us to live life to its fullest. So much so that He tells us that He came just so we could have an abundant life. The second half of the warning in the above verse states this: ~ ***I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10:10***

God wants us to enjoy all that He has created. He wants us to enjoy the many blessings He gives us. Christ died to redeem us back to the Father and give us all the protection that comes with being a child of God. However, we can never forget that when we are doing well, when it seems that God has blessed us beyond measure that is when we are most vulnerable. Because, we think we are standing so strong that nothing can bring us down. That is when God tells us;

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 1 Corinthians 10:12-13

We can't ever get so wrapped up in all that we are doing in our blessed surroundings of life that we forget to keep ourselves guarded against every temptation that would bring our destruction eventually. The enemy of our soul doesn't mind a bit if we so enjoy our blessed life that we forget he is there waiting for the first opportunity to entrap

us with something that will ultimately bring our demise.

Just like that mountain lion that stalked me and my horse, Satan is always stalking us waiting for us to give him a chance to devour our lives. I am certain that the combined size of me on my horse caused that Cougar to fear me and not try to take me down at that time. I also know that spiritually, the size of our God attached to us, by His Son, Jesus Christ also scares Satan to not try and attack us. It is when I dismount my horse and walk alone that I am most vulnerable. It is also when we forget that God is our protector, and do our own thing, separate from Him that we are most vulnerable.

Look to God daily. Ask for His help and protection. Enjoy life, but always be aware that someone out there is always stalking, always planning to destroy us and keep us from the eternal life that is only ours through Jesus Christ.

God Bless You and God Bless America!
Randy and Heidi Gunn

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