

**THE SERMONS, LECTURES, AND SONGS OF
SIDNEY EDWARD COX**

Audio Message

The Quality Of This Audio Is Poor, But Audible

Lions, Pits and Snowy Days – Part II

I Chronicles, Chapter 11

Editorial Note: This series is an example of how Sidney Cox attempted to use the tape recorder to help him reach groups with his sermons and Bible lessons. He had purchased a reel-to-reel tape recorder and used it extensively in this effort.

The origins of his interest in this technology and technique trace to the health and condition of his beloved wife, Violet. Violet was a victim of severe rheumatoid arthritis, and was an invalid for several years leading up to her death in 1967. During the latter years of her life, Sidney was her sole caregiver. She was never institutionalized.

As a result of his dedication to her, Sidney had to curtail his travels and preaching, although he remained in great demand by The Salvation Army and the Christian and Missionary Alliance churches to preach and teach. Unable to travel, he responded to invitations by recording his sermons and Bible lessons in the quietness of his apartment and mailed the audio tape to the various groups for their use.

On other occasions when he was able to appear in person, he would record his delivered sermons and lessons for future distribution to other groups who had an interest.

This series was recorded in his apartment and distributed to a small home Bible study group for their use. I am unsure of the exact date at which they were recorded, and the group to whom they were sent; however, certain clues would likely date this recording to the late 1960s.

J. Douglas Cox, grandson of Sidney and Violet Cox. August 5, 2010

Now let's talk a little bit about snowy days, the third of these remarkable, pungent words that we've been talking about. "He slew a lion in a pit on a snowy day."

Now we've had a chance to take a look at Benaiah. Isn't he wonderful? – this man who lived in the long ago, but his spiritual stature was as great as his physical strength. Benaiah, the man who slew a lion in the pit on a snowy day. Benaiah, one of David's mighty men. Benaiah, the man who dwelled with the enemy to get the drink of water for David from the well by Bethlehem's gate. Benaiah, the man who handled the two lion-like men of Moab. Benaiah, the man who slew the Egyptian, seven and a half feet high.

He's had something to say to us. In the background, he seems a long way away, but the thing that is said about him seems to bring him close to us. For while we do not know of lions and pits and snowy days as Benaiah knew them, we do know that life is very largely made up of lions and pits and snowy days.

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Now we've talked a bit about the lions and pits, but the menace of snowy days is just as great as any one of them, and for a little while, let's talk quietly and honestly and thoughtfully and then prayerfully about the snowy days that come in life, your life, my life. We know about snowy days. You do and I do.

Remember that snowy days are testing days. If you have ____ joints, if you've got a touch of arthritis somewhere or other, it will surely show up on a snowy day. If your ____ leak, they will surely become gray and comfortable on a snowy day. You can walk out with out ____ shoes on a fine sun-shiny day, but don't try it when the snow is on the ground. And the distance seems to double on a snowy day. Have you ever noticed it? And the road becomes slippery on a snowy day. It isn't just usually for those of us who are in the middle of life. We can take it. But it's not easy for a child that slips and falls on a snowy day and it's not easy for an older person that slips and falls on a snowy day. Snowy days are testing days.

Now, in life, there are many snowy days that we are called upon to face. And for just a few minutes again, let's talk about some of them. Sorrow is a snowy day. It rips your heart and tests your foundation. It's chill gets into the bloodstream. The day of sorrow is a snowy day. The familiar landmarks disappear. A chilly blanket seems to wrap itself around us. Scores of men and women are now passing through the snowy day of sorrow - many a man and woman passing through the snowy day of sorrow because a son who went to Viet Nam will not come back again. Thousands of them are passing through the day of sorrow because a son who did come back again will never walk or ____ or be normal in his life anymore. Sorrow.

This old world is just filled with it. This is not new. The Bible knows about it. We're told that, "Man is born to sorrow as the sparks fly upward."¹ Oh, what a difference it makes when you know Jesus. When you can not only sing, but really know what we're singing about when we say, "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear, what a privilege to carry everything, our sorrow, to God in prayer."

You see the contrast between the life anchored and the life drifting on the snowy day.

There's a song we used to sing. *I Know Where To Go With My Sorrow*. Do you? There's a word in the scripture that seems to glow with unearthly beauty, for we are told that, "Sorrow and sighing shall flee away."² Do you remember that we talked about a beautiful poem that Isaiah wrote in which he reminds us that there is a place where, "No lions shall be there, nor any ravenous beasts shall go up thereon."³ The final words of that 35th chapter of Isaiah are these, "And sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

There's a time coming, so this book of God tells us, when there'll be no more death, no more pain, no more sorrow. Sorrow is a dark, dismal, dangerous snowy day.

Aloneness is a snowy day. When friends leave us: husbands, wives, families broken, the arm of flesh fails us. When the crops are taken from us. When other resources fail us. Elijah faced that. You

¹ Job 5:7.

² Isaiah 35:10.

³ Isaiah 35:9.

remember when he said, “Lord, they have killed thy prophets and digged down thine altars: and I am left alone, and they seek my life.”⁴

The Master knew the snowy day of aloneness. They all forsook him and fled. There’s a song that says, “____, all alone.” And one of the saddest things that ever fell from the lips of our Lord was the word that He said there in the Garden of Gethsemane, “Could you not watch with me one brief hour.”⁵ Alone.

Powerlessness is a snowy day. When the tests comes and the enemy comes in like a flood and we discover that something has sapped our spiritual vitality; that somewhere along the line we have lowered our standards. A little thing, not important, but when the tests came, we discovered that our lowered standard was a lost standard.

Sampson knew about it, didn’t he? He reached into the reservoir of his resources only to discover his strength had departed. Powerlessness. The disciples faced it - this snowy day at the foot of the Mount of Transfiguration, there was a testing time, and the disciples, helpless in their powerlessness. There was a test for them on the hillside when the multitude, hungry after a day of listening to the Lord, and the disciples had forgotten to take bread.

The day of discovery is a snowy day – when sin finds us out; when evil becomes visible; when the knock sounds at the door; when the heavenly auditor checks the cash book.

Saul knew about it. “What then is this bleating of the sheep?”⁶ He’d been found out.

David knew about it. “Thou art the man.”⁷ He’d been found out.

Achan. “What’s the meaning of this Babylonish garment and wedge of gold?”⁸ He’d been found out.

Annanias. “What’s the meaning of this partial payment and the lie to the Holy Ghost.”⁹ He’d been found out.

Sin always finds us out. There is always a day of discovery.

When Moses said those words in the Book of Numbers to Reuben and Gad and half the Tribe of Manasseh who had refused to go over the River Jordan and enter the land that God had prepared for them, but were choosing their own place, Moses said to them, “Be sure your sin will find you out.”¹⁰ And it did.

But there’s another side to this story. We’re talking about snow and snowy days. But one of the lovely things about the Word of God is this: that snow can be a blessing, and this aspect of the story is

⁴ Romans 11:3.

⁵ Matthew 26:40.

⁶ I Samuel 15:14.

⁷ II Samuel 12:7.

⁸ Joshua 7:21.

⁹ Acts 5:1-3.

¹⁰ Numbers 32:23.

emphasized over and over again in the scriptures of God. Out of the darkness of the snowy day, God can bring light and beauty and cleansing and refreshment.

Isaiah speaks of it on at least two occasions. “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow.” Isaiah 1:18. And when he gives his lovely poem that we speak of as Isaiah 55, he says, “As the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater.”¹¹

Snow from heaven. David speaks of snow as the symbol of cleanliness. “Purge me with hyssop,” he cries, “and I shall be clean. Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.” Psalm 51:7.

And Daniel was granted a vision of the ancient of days, and he discovered that his garment was, “Whiter than snow.” Daniel 7:9.

It was a snowy day in Jerusalem when Christ was crucified. The horror of the cross. The chill of the tomb. But into the midst of that darkness came an angel from heaven and rolled away the stone and, “His countenance was as lightening and His raiment, white as snow.”¹²

The vision on the Island of Patmos, John beholds the Son of Man looking in the midst of the candlesticks, “His eyes like flame and his hair was white as snow.”¹³

Snowy days. God can change them into days of beauty and joy and blessing. No wonder we sing a prayer, “Whiter than snow, yes whiter than snow, now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.” And we speak of the, “Washed in the blood of the lamb and I shall be whiter than snow.”

And we have been considering for a few minutes the story of a man who suddenly appears out of the mystery of a bit of Israelitish history and says some things, and _____ are said, and strangely enough, Benaiah now becomes a living person to us. We might not have known a great deal about Benaiah 30 or 40 minutes ago, but we know a great deal about him now. And not only do we know about him, but God will take this story of Benaiah and shine the light on it and to the life that you are living and bring into view lions and pits and snowy days; and in spite of the difficulty and the danger of it all, God can change the snowy days of life into times of blessing and beauty and strength and fruitfulness. And your heart and mine is saying, “Lord, do it for me. Lord, do it again.” And He will, if He has your life and mine completely in His hands.

Our Father, we pray for thy blessing upon us. We have been listening to an ancient story. There is a good deal of age and a long distance about it and sometimes we wonder, “Does it have anything to say to us?” But, thou hast brought it before our eyes and our ears. Thou hast been talking to us about the lions and the pits and the snowy days in our lives, and thou hast brought to us the final thought of all of these things in the hands of God can be made a blessing if only we’d commit ourselves to being not partially but completely into the hands of God, that the snowy days of our lives may be bright and beautiful, and that out of our lives there may come fruit by Jesus Christ for the glory of God the Father. In the precious name that is above every name, we pray and give thee thanks. Amen.

¹¹ Isaiah 55:10.

¹² Matthew 28:3.

¹³ Revelation 1:14.