

## Grown-ups Can Stop the Devourer



*Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.* – 1 Peter 5:8b (NRSV)

Think with me about the apparent dedication of our adversary, the devil. Scripture says he “prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.” In other words, he stalks, lurks, skulks, hangs around, lies in wait, creeps around, hangs about, or just generally bides his time for an opportunity to pounce on someone he can devour, eat greedily, consume, demolish, dispose of, gulp down, overcome or overwhelm. What a guy!

Who more easy to devour in this world than children? They are so vulnerable! They are so vulnerable that Jesus had very strong words to say in defense of them: “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea.” (Matthew 18:6)

We are sometimes unsuspecting, unwitting, and unprepared victims, even though Paul writes that “we are not ignorant of his (Satan’s) designs.” (2 Corinthians 2:11) But little children are ignorant of Satan’s schemes. They are defenseless. And the world’s poor children are at even greater risk.

I’ve heard it said that if a child doesn’t come to Christ by age 15, the likelihood that he or she will ever come to Christ is greatly reduced. That means we need to be about the Lord’s business of loving children.

What if every one of us were to walk about with eyes wide open, searching the faces of the children we meet with the love of God in our eyes, and looking for the chance tell them how much God loves them? What if we took seriously Christ’s command to ‘go and tell’ the children about Jesus? And that Jesus died for them? And that all they need to do is believe and turn to Jesus?

There are many factors to the poverty issue. And there are many forces and systems that keep children in poverty. Debates rage. Answers are feeble. The problem is too big. “I’m only one person; what can I do?”

In every generation, there are Christians as determined to preach the Good News as the adversary is determined to stop it. Will you be that person? Take a few minutes to consider the children in your life — at home, at work, at school, at church. Think about the incidental places and the children you meet there — grocery store, bank, mall, park. Ask the Lord to give you ears to hear their cries, eyes to see their needs, and the heart to share the love of Jesus with them. And the courage.

Don’t be afraid — “For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the entire earth, to strengthen those whose heart is true to him.” (2 Chronicles 16:9a)

**Here I am, Lord. Send me.**

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Children  
in Poverty

