

The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe

Edmund

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Service Introduction... **WELCOME...** Today continue our series on LWW . last week we looked at CS Lewis's life story... at how 'his tale' sets up the whole Narnia series...

This morning jump right into the LWW... gonna do that by looking at the story through the eyes **Edmund**

PAUSE... Lewis once said that if we really want to 'get' fairy tales we need to enter through a very small gate.... **PAUSE...** **We need to enter as children...**

Over the next two weeks we're gonna do that... today, looking at the **dark side** of Narnia via **Edmund's eyes** Next week looking at the **light side** via **Lucy's eyes**

PAUSE Ok, a bit of survey first...who's read the book? How many of you have **seen the film?**... A bit scary at times eh? [**Evil Queen... Minotaurs... trip/Maugrim**]

Some might even wonder a bit too much for young children!... Why **expose your kids** to such fearful realities?... Shouldn't we **protect them** from evils of this sort?...

Professor Lewis had this to say... "Such shielding would indeed... give children a false impression and feed them on escapism in the bad sense... Since it is so likely that they will meet cruel enemies, **let them at least have heard of brave knights and heroic courage.** Otherwise you are making their destiny not brighter but darker... I side impenitently with the human race against the modern reformer. Let there be wicked

kings and beheadings, battles and dungeons, giants and dragons, and let villains be soundly killed at the end of the book. Nothing will persuade me that this causes an ordinary child any kind or degree of fear beyond what it wants and need to feel. For, of course, it wants to be a little frightened."

So today... **Evil in Narnia...** b/f that 2 more songs...

Edmund... The second youngest of the 4 Pevensie siblings... and a bit of a **scoundrel...** **PAUSE...** No sooner had they arrived at old professor's home... ("a mere **223 words** into the original story, we read...")

"We've fallen on our feet... *to...* Go to bed yourself." p4

Sound like anyone you know?... PAUSE... and then later on in the story... after Lucy first foray into Narnia having come back w/no one believing her!...

"For the next few days... *to...* all over the house" p26

I laugh at that... and I **gulp** a bit... **PAUSE...** Edmund's tone seems hauntingly familiar... **LONG PAUSE...**

Or worst of all... After Edmund goes w/Lucy to Narnia! comes back... about to tell siblings (vindicating Lucy) and he **betrays her!...** **PAUSE...** Lucy starts...

"Peter! Susan! It's all true...*to...* nothing there really."p44

PAUSE..." What a little...!" ... talk about nasty... selfish so filled with himself... so **proudly superior...** **PAUSE** he **can't even see** how awful he's acting... totally blind to who he's become... No idea that 'Pride often cometh before the fall..." **"Backtrack..." PAUSE...**

"And so Edmund came across the evil Queen in Narnia ... a bit of a snake, she deceived him... **PAUSE...** "My poor child, she said in a quite different voice, "How cold you

look! Come and sit with me on the sledge and I will put my mantle round you and we will talk..." **And he talked...**

Then she tempted him with a wonderful hot drink... and several pounds of Turkish Delight... "Each piece was sweet and light to the very centre and Edmund had never tasted anything more delicious. He was quite warm now, and very comfortable..." **and bite after bite, Edmund talked** "It is a lovely place my house," said the Queen. "I am sure you will like it. There are whole rooms of Turkish Delight, and what's more, I have no children of my own. I want a nice boy whom I could bring up as a Prince and who would be King of Narnia when I am gone. While he was Prince he would wear a gold crown and eat Turkish Delight all day long; ...and you are much the cleverest and handsomest young man I have ever met. I think I would like to make **you** the Prince – some day, when you bring the others to visit me." P37/8

Hook, line and sinker, Edmund kept on talking... betraying his siblings... betraying his very self...**PAUSE**

Temptation: it appeals to our **greed... to gluttony... it's illusory powers hide in pride's blind spot... we have no idea that those sweet, sultry, 'what we so much want to hear' words are a deception... that 'hearing what we want to hear' actually makes us deaf...**

Author John Bowen writes... "Without any resistance, Edmund begins to **surrender**. On one level, he surrenders to flattery and greed, yet there is deeper question behind that, **the question of loyalty: whose side is Edmund on?** The answer becomes clear when he returns to this world and Lucy warns him that the White Witch is evil. For Edmund the wonderful memory of Turkish Delight overrules the danger signals: "**[h]e was already more than half on the side of the Witch.**"

Or more correctly totally on the side of himself! (Tempter's tone) "Life really is all about you Edmund... go for it!... you gotta look out for #1 ("and that's you")... it all exists for you young man... "take pleasure in

being a Prince Edmund... **make a name for yourself** (Gen 11:4)... you're a god!" **LONG PAUSE...** "[And] they... made themselves gods of gold..." Ex 32:31

PAUSE... But then... a glitch... a real King makes the scene ... Edmund didn't **even know he existed...** and that king's name... his name was... **READING READING... "Here the Beaver's voice... to...beginning of summer"** p67/8

PAUSE "Edmund felt a sensation of mysterious horror" **you know the feeling...** like the time when you got **caught in the act... "busted!" PAUSE...** or when **a lie got exposed... PAUSE...** "Woe is me... I'm a man of unclean lips..."^{is6} ... like that time when '**something so good**' made the scene and exposed '**something not so good**' in you... (I hate it when that happens!)

Like Edmund, you feel **dread...** (Edmund didn't know it, but already he'd turned his back on Aslan, by giving his allegiance to the Queen... he didn't even know A yet!) By stepping toward evil stepped away from good...

"Light existed in the world of Narnia, but Edmund loved darkness instead of light, because his deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed." John 3:19-21

And in the light of Aslan's name, **Edmund ran...** ran to his Queen... and at palace found stone lion... and upon realizing its impotence thought, **READING "Probably, this is the great lion Aslan...to... cross the courtyard."** P95/6 "**he drew glasses and a moustache on it**"... **PAUSE...** "God is dead... A mere opiate for the masses... **PAUSE...** so there!"

So Edmund meets his Queen... tells her everything he knows... even betrays Aslan to her... the Queen

then prepares to meet Aslan/taking Edmund with her...
READ... “Edmund meanwhile... to... said the Witch”
p111/12

And now another **dread** grips Edmund’s heart... how could I have been such a fool?... **“just one bite...”**
PAUSE... I had so much... threw it all away... now I’m resigned to eating this slop... (All mistakes flooded in)
And now all ruined... **his life...relationship w/ siblings even his relationship w/Aslan...** everything... **PAUSE**

Was there anything he could do to save himself?...

Bowen “If the problems of Narnia were caused merely by doing wrong things, Edmund’s restoration could have been brought about quite simply by his giving up Turkish Delight. The heart of the problem, however, is much deeper than that--his betrayal of Aslan--and so his redemption requires first of all a change in his relationship to Aslan.” **“Against you, and you only have I sinned...” psalm 51**

Only **how could he fix things with anyone** while in the witches wicked grip? **PAUSE...** He needed to be saved... **PAUSE...** and so he was... by ASLAN!!...

1. **Sends rescue team** to extricate him from captivity...
2. Then Aslan makes **most inexplicable deal...** [Knew Deep magic demanded justice... Witch was right in saying that she owned Edmund’s soul... “Forfeit because of his betrayal of Aslan!”... **Sacrifices himself instead... LONG PAUSE (laid down life for friend!)**
3. “He’s not really dead... He’s not really dead mommy” scared 5 yr old on mom’s lap in theatre...
4. Boy was right!... **[DEEPER MAGIC]**

PAUSE... Just before Aslan made this supreme sacrifice... small poignant scene... **[TALK – not privy but imagine what said... if you let yourself you can imagine self being there... step into Edmund’s**

shoes... with your pride... all teasing you did... those words... actions... betrayal!... imagine looking into his eyes... knowing his NAME] **LONG SILENCE**

Then hope returns to Edmund... (You gotta see the film!)... After accepted by Aslan accepted by **siblings... Soldier... destroys Wand... purple cross** ... and then Most poignant **[Smile at Coronation] Edmund is redeemed... PAUSE...** Didn’t have to live out the consequences of his mistakes... not fully... **PAUSE... was now a king... glory... Edmund the Just... LONG PAUSE...** (I hear Edmund becomes a pretty good guy in other stories!!!)

PAUSE... Scene near end of tale... **“Does Edmund know what Aslan did for him?” p180**

Do we?