

LEA Weekly Devotion

August 25, 2014

Read [Psalm 92](#) (TLB)

Related readings: [Jer. 8:4–12](#)

Strong Like Bull

Boris and Natasha (of Rocky & Bullwinkle fame), not having attended a Lutheran school, probably were not quoting from Psalm 92 when they bragged of being “strong like bull” in their thick Russian accent.

The phrase is so popular that several denizens of cyberspace have debated the precise origin of “strong like bull,” citing scenes from several movies. This writer, not having ventured much above or below the Bullwinkle culture, favors attribution to the villains. And while Psalm 92:10 in the NLB says, “But you have made me as strong as a wild bull,” other versions use *ox* or even *bison*! We’ll stick with bull.

If you’re reading this early or late on Monday or Friday, you probably do not feel “strong like bull.” And it might be pushing it to venture upon the phrase that finishes verse 10, “How refreshed I am by your blessings!” But consider this:

“O Lord, what miracles you do! And how deep are your thoughts! Unthinking people do not understand them! No fool can comprehend this: that although the wicked flourish like weeds, there is only eternal destruction ahead of them. But the Lord continues forever, exalted in the heavens, while his enemies—all evildoers—shall be scattered.” Those are the words of verses 5–9. And they are supposed to make you brighten your outlook.

How many enemies of what you’re doing have you seen fall? Is this “strong like bull” thing just a lot of... er, bison?

Psalm 92 is true. Much of it happens behind the scenes for you, even though it happened right before the psalmist’s eyes in his day. You are strong like bull because of what God has done for you through Jesus Christ. You are strong like bull because the Holy Spirit has empowered you to teach God’s Word and proclaim the Gospel.

You can’t see what’s going on, but know that Satan does not approve of what you are doing. He doesn’t send you a nasty email or call you during dinner. He wages war to win you, to erode your trust in God, to tempt you away with devilish dreams, to deceive you with lies. There is an entire spiritual war going on—all over you and the kids you teach and the families you serve.

But you are strong like bull.

Therefore, you can go back to the beginning of Psalm 92, and say, “It is good to say thank you to the Lord, to sing praises to the God who is above all gods. Every morning tell him, ‘Thank you for your kindness,’ and every evening rejoice in all his faithfulness. Sing his praises, accompanied by music from the harp and lute and lyre. You have done so much for me, O Lord.

No wonder I am glad! I sing for joy” (vv 1–4).

And that’s no ox either!

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