**A Snake in the Kitchen**

\*I apologize in advance for any phobias this lesson may arouse, or nightmares it may cause. I also ask that you *“bear with me in a little foolishness”* (cf. 2Cor.11:1) today in what follows…

I love baseball. I played organize baseball from second grade through high school, and watched it at every level- from T-Ball to Professional (Major and Minor) since then. In baseball, there’s a phrase that describes a pitch “inside” to the batter. It is said that the pitcher got in the batter’s “kitchen.” At least when the phrase came into parlance, kitchens were typically small, cramped, and sometimes cluttered spaces that were full of nooks, crannies, cabinets, and cupboards with little room to work or operate. Hence, the pitch was so close to the batter that he didn’t have room to get his arms extended to bring the head of the bat to it. In fact, the pitch may even have been close enough to actually strike him.

Now, let’s imagine your “kitchen” as one of those small, cramped, and overly-crowded spaces with all those nooks, crannies, and cupboards rather than the more modern palatial versions… and there’s a snake hiding somewhere in it! Although you know he’s there because you see (or think you see) glimpses of him from time to time… never really out in the open, just slyly and stealthily slithering from one of the many hiding spots to another. But because the space is so cramped, and with so many nooks, crannies, cupboards, and things in the way, you don’t have room to get your arms really extended to get a good whack at him with your “bat” of choice. So he remains an ever-present menace “in your kitchen.” (Apologies again for both the nightmares and the mixed metaphors!).

**Now:**

1. Satan is *“the serpent of old who is called the Devil and Satan,”* Rev.12:9;
2. He is the same *crafty* and *beguiling serpent* who deceived Eve, 2Cor.11:3;
3. Our “kitchens” are our *lives,* cramped and crammed full of all kinds of *nooks, crannies,* and *cupboards* that prevent us from getting a clear *view,* let alone a good *whack*, at this subtle serpent, 2Cor.6:12;
4. Snakes are like pigs in that if they ever get their “nose” in, the rest will follow, cp. Matt. 26:6-16 and John 12:1-8; 13:2,27; Judas’ *greed* provided a small hole of *greed* and *thievery* through which Satan poked his *split, lying tongue* and began whispering in his *ear;* then a *perceived slight* gave the serpent access to slide his whole *slithering body* through to be completely *inside* of Judas, cf. Jas.1:14; and,
5. Snakes are extremely hard to *find* and *evict* once *inside,* as Judas again illustrates, Matt.27:1-5; although it is difficult to keep them/him out (even tiny *holes* are enough to provide access), it is easier to *prevent* than to *rid* yourself of them; but it CAN be done, as Peter illustrates, cp. Luke 22:24-34,54-62 and Acts 2:14ff.

**By Contrast:**

1. Jesus doesn’t *enter* without *invitation,* Rev.3:20;
2. Jesus doesn’t act *stealthily* but *openly,* cp. Luke 19:45-48 and 22:47,53;
3. Jesus doesn’t *deceive* but *enlightens,* John 10:1-10; 1:9;

**What to do if you have a *snake* in your *kitchen:***

1. Turn the/your *light* on/back on, Gal.5:16-24
2. Put your *armor* on/back on, Eph.6:11-17a
3. *Arm* yourself with the *sword of the Spirit,* Eph.6:17b
4. Go *snake hunting* and hack him to pieces, Luke 11:21-22; 10:17-20