

Confirmation 2011 Joshua 1:9 “Thanks, Dad” May 29, 2011

I read that there was a story on one of the nature shows on TN. about a mother black bear giving birth to two cubs. One cub died right away and the mother died soon afterward, leaving the young cub to fend for himself. The camera showed a mountain lion in the area and hinted that this little guy was a walking buffet. One day the cub encountered a giant male black bear. Realizing the cub was alone, the big bear gave the cub a friendly nudge and the adoption papers were signed. The father bear proceeded to teach the little one about eating insects, how to fish, and the art of scratching ones back on a tree.

One day they became separated and the cub panicked as he looked for the father bear. His search led him to the stream where he learned how to fish. He looked up and saw the mountain lion who had stalked the cub for the entire show. With no father bear around, the little guy was in trouble. As the lion approached, the little guy could only mimic what he was taught, so he stood upon his hind feet, bared his teeth and let out a growl that he thought would shake the trees. Instead the best he could do was a squeak.

Now is the time to hide the children's eyes as you expect the worst to happen. However, the lion turned and ran off in the opposite direction. The little guy stood there rather proud of what he had done. It was then that the camera panned back to what the little cub couldn't have seen; there was his father bear standing behind him at full height, claws out and his sharp, white teeth bared for the lion to see. He hadn't made a sound but his presence was felt. Even though the little guy couldn't see his dad, the father was there protecting him. The little cub had a power available to him greater than anything he could produce on his own. Like that little cub, we all feel alone and scared from time to time. Our sinful nature tells us that no one cares and even God is too busy for little, old me. Like the little cub, we are buffet for the mountain lions of this world; terrorism, gangs, politics, the cost of gas, the interest rates of banks, the cost of health care, and the Devil Himself wherever he rears his ugly head. We can yell and scream all we want but our screams, like the cubs are squeaks in the wind. On our own we are lost and helpless in this world.

Because God Is Good.. .All The Time, He promises us to be there like the father bear. God has sent His Son to die for us, rise for us, and take away the punishment for our sins. Because of that sacrifice, He's not going to hang us out there to be Satan's buffet. In Joshua 1:9 He tells us to be strong and courageous. Don't ever be terrified or discouraged because our Father is with us wherever we go. We might not see Him, but Satan does and runs away. Stand up for your Lord with your life. Stand up with your Lord in worship, prayer, and Bible Study, and when evil runs from you, simply say, "Thanks, Dad!" amen. .pastor matthews