

## 05-28-2024 Lessons from the Berry Patch #7 A Good Stick

An indispensable tool for the Berry Patch. You need a good strong stick of some kind. I have the handle from an old garden hoe. It works really well. So just why do we need that stick? There are a couple of reasons:

1. You can use it to poke around as you walk through the patch. I poke around on the path I am walking to warn the snakes that I am coming. If you find yourself in confrontation with a snake, it makes a good weapon.
2. It helps you keep from tripping if one of those tough vines gets wrapped around your boots.
3. You need it because the Berry Patch keeps secrets. We will talk about that one in a later lesson.

Today, let's talk about reason #1 from the list.

So here is a story that is a little bit embarrassing, but maybe you can relate... I was out picking berries in our pasture and I had put my 9 millimeter pistol in my pocket. As I was busting through the vines, I came face to face with a water moccasin. Water moccasins can be pretty aggressive creatures and will often "stand their ground" instead of running away. This snake was one of those. He coiled into position to strike, with that "cotton mouth" wide open.

Now I am usually a live-and-let-live guy when it comes to snakes of any kind, but this one was too close to where my grandkids roam around in the pasture, so I decided to do away with him.

I pulled out my trusty pistol, fired five or six shots at him and missed him every time. There was a 6' long piece of a wooden branch nearby that had fallen out of one of the trees. I picked up the branch and smacked him with it and it was over. So basically I just whopped him with that stick.

You don't have to be really afraid of anything you can kill with a stick.

In the Bible we read that our enemy, satan is called a snake. Satan is a formidable enemy for sure but he has been defeated by Jesus. And what did Jesus use to defeat satan? Yep, a big stick. A stick called the Cross. The devil threw everything he had at Jesus, he was never even close to being a match for Jesus. So why did Jesus die on that "big stick?" Not because the devil was stronger than Him and overcame Him. Jesus chose to die on that big stick to

defeat the devil for us. The cross is our big stick. As we rely on Jesus, we will begin to overcome our enemy, the serpent.

So when you are in the Berry Patch, remember to walk loudly and carry a big stick...



Trust Jesus to defeat satan in your Berry Patch!