

Maneater

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Fostering a Hope Community - 3rd Wed night of each month, beg May 19th.
 1. Parents if you foster - adopt - help w/Safe Families, this is for you.
 2. 7:00 pm, childcare available. Contact Kelly for more info.
- B. Slide3 VBS this summer June 14-18. Sign-ups will begin in a couple weeks.
- C. Slide4 Partners Red Ribbon Fundraiser -
- D. Slide5 Hamburger pic last week, ha!
- E. Prayer:

II. Slide6 Intro: Maneater

- A. Do you remember Hall & Oates song, *Maneater*? Reached #1 on Billboard Hot 100 chart in 1982.
 1. **John Oates** explained while it is natural to assume the lyrics are about a woman, the song actually was originally written "*about NYC in the '80s.*" *It's about greed, avarice* (extreme greed for wealth or material gain), *and spoiled riches*. **But** we have it in the setting of a girl because it's more relatable. It's something that people can understand.
- B. What do you need? Sometimes we need *assurance of our salvation*, sometimes we need *Warnings!* Topic change, mood change, theme change (to *Warnings*).
 1. **Believers be aware of Temptation.** Believers be aware of *Anything* in our lives that **dulls our love** for spiritual things, **or** that **makes it easy for us to sin** because it's worldly and must be put away.

III. Slide7a 3 MAN-EATING LIONS (15-17)

- A. (15) For God so loved the world ... Do not love the world -

1. Do NOT love the world? - I thought we were supposed to love the world? Aren't we supposed to love the people of the world? Love the lost people of the world? Love our neighbor in the world?
 2. Slide7b The world means *all that belongs to this life that is opposed to Christ*
 - a) It's Satan's system, society opposed to God & taking the place of God.
 3. Love for **the world** & love for **God** are mutually exclusive. A person can't love both. Another way to say it, there are 2 ways of life: a life lived for **eternity** or a life lived for **time**.
- B. Do not love the world - the values of human societies should not define believers. They should be shaped by *Jesus' values*.
1. The world he is talking about is defined in vs.16.
- C. Slide8a (16) Here are the 3 Man-Eating Lions of the world:
1. Lust of the Flesh - The cravings of sinful man. Wrongful desires of our sinful nature. The world's temptations start deep within us.
 2. Lust of the eyes - The wrongful desires that are *inspired* through our vision.
 - a) The world tempts us by its physical attraction. *Its ways appear good, but its beauty has no substance.*
 3. Pride of life - lit. *pride in possessions*. Counterfeit holiness. Lack of humility. The boasting of what you have & do. Arrogance due to material possessions.
 - a) Think of how many TV shows were built on these 3: *Lifestyles of the Rich & Famous* in the 80's & 90's. *MTV's Cribs* (tours of the houses and mansions of celebrities) in the early 2000's. And recently with the *Keeping up with the Kardashians*.
 - b) The world tempts us to outshine others in wealth & possessions. Wealth used for the purposes of personal gain demonstrates a selfish view of self-worth.
 - (1) Wealth should be used for *the care for others* (see 1 Jn.3:17)
- D. Some have likened this to ...

1. Eve's temptations in the garden (Gen 3 - *she saw (fruit), it was pleasant to the eyes, she took*).
2. Achan's temptations in the tent (Joshua 7:21 - *he saw, coveted, & then took (the Babylonian garments, 200 shekels of silver, wedge of gold)*)
3. Jesus' temptations in the wilderness (Mat. 4 *stones/bread, jump, all these things I will give you*)
 - a) **Max Lucado** explained these 3 as: *The desire to **enjoy** things, the desire to **achieve** things, the desire to **get** things.*
4. **Slide8b Griffith Thomas** explained these 3 as: *The desire of **having**; The desire of **seeing**, The desire of **being**.*

E. (17) Is this not what the world lives for? (the big 3)

1. *Living for the world* means losing everything eventually, **because** the world is passing away (Lot suffered such loss).
 - a) *You are either **building** for eternity or **living** for time.*
2. **Slide8c** *The Christian is not ruined by living in the world, but by the world living in him!*

F. **Abides forever** - serves as the **motivation** to *overcome the temptations of the world* & not **love them**.

G. **So** the warning (15), the wickedness (16) & the worthlessness of the world system (17)

1. *There is no permanent satisfaction from anything in the world ... it is all **temporal**.*

H. **1st Warning:** *not to love the world*. Now, **2nd Warning:** *watch out for false teachers*.

IV. **Slide9 THE LAST HOUR (18-25)** *the new age has dawned*

A. Like Antichrist, they'll claim to teach the truth, **but** actually deceive people.

B. **Their real colors** appear when they *deny that Jesus is the Messiah*.

C. (18) **It's the last hour** - *It's the beginning, of the beginning of the end.*

The inauguration of the last days or the new age.

D. Antichrist verse antichrists.

1. **Antichrist** = we usually think *against Christ*, **but** better yet, *an opposition Christ, or a rival Christ*. (only used by the apostle John)
 - a) **AKA**: Daniel calls him, *the little horn*. Paul calls him *the man of sin*. John in the Rev calls him, *the beast of the sea*. And Charlie Tuna called him, *the chicken of the sea*.
2. **antichrists** - John warns about the **anti-christian teachers** & tells us how to recognize them.
 - a) **They've left** the fellowship of the truth. (19)
 - b) **They deny** that Jesus is the Christ/Son of God come in the flesh. (22)
 - c) **They try** to seduce/deceive believers. (26)

E. (19) This **isn't** people who *change fellowships/chuches*, **but** *friends who walk away from fellowship, from the Lord, from Christianity, from Jesus*.

1. **So if a professing** Christian falls away from the truth, what is shown here, that might not have been obvious earlier? [they were near really part of us]

F. **Note here also is the teaching known as** *the perseverance of the saints*.

1. Not that they will persevere themselves, **but** that **God will preserve us**.
 - a) **God finishes what He starts**. He ensures His purposes in election are not frustrated.
2. Those who are **truly saved** will **remain true to Christ** until the end.
3. It is not endurance that saves, **but** **endurance is the characteristic of the truly saved**.

G. (20) **But you have been anointed by the holy one** - when you place **you** at the front of the sentence in Greek, *that gives it strong emphasis*.

1. Emphatically, true believers **have the Holy Spirit**.

V. Slide10a **THE TRUTH (26,27)**

A. (27) **You have no need that anyone should teach you** - does not mean you have no need for disciplers, pastors, teachers. [**think about it**, how could John teach them that they didn't need teaching?]

1. He's saying that believers must be **spirit-taught** personally through the Word, & should not always depend on human teachers.
2. **Slide10b** *The Christian in fellowship w/God will read & understand the Bible & be taught by the Spirit.* Warren Wiersbe

VI. Slide11 **THE APPEARING (28,29)**

A. **We have a wonderful hope...the coming of Jesus Christ.**

B. **He appears & His Coming** - interesting meanings that both help describe Christ's 2nd Coming:

1. **Appear** - suggests *unveiling, an uncovering, a revealing, or manifestation.*
 - a) **Christ & His glory** are now hidden, **but** soon to be revealed to us.
2. **Coming (parousia)** - **A technical term for a royal visit.**
 - a) It describes Christ's 2nd Coming **into** the presence of His people. [revealing/coming]

C. Some Christians who have not been **abiding**/fellowshipping w/Christ, will be **ashamed** when He returns. **Honor and shame culture.**

D. **Born in Him** - adopted into His family.

E. **The test of sonship** isn't if you **say** you're a believer (4,6,9). **Or** to claim you were apart of *the family of God* for a time (19). **But the test of sonship** is **righteousness of life**. [the call to do what is **right!**]

1. **John teaches** (like Peter) that **false doctrine & false living go together!**

F. **How do we overcome the world?** With God's **love**. **How do we overcome liars?** With God's **truth**.

G. **Story: Machaca Hills** (used to be El Pescador) **I was eating breakfast at this resort that sits on top of Belize's Rainforest Canopy. Birds, Holler Monkeys, beautiful flowers & plants everywhere. Then I noticed a hummingbird feeder hanging on the patio. Is that what it looks like to God, when we eat from the sugar of this world,**

instead of deriving spiritual nectar from the vast flowers He has provided?

H. Keywords: Maneater, Lust, pride, desire, antichrist, coming, appearing, truth.