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THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

DO YOU HAVE A CAMEL IN YOUR TENT?

One night when the desert winds blew hard and cold a camel pushed his nose through the flap of an Arab's tent and said, "Because it's cold out here would you mind if I just kept my nose in your tent?" The Arab agreed and went back to sleep. Later in the evening he awoke and discovered the camel had not only his nose, but also his head and shoulders in the tent. When the camel pleaded, the kindly Arab allowed the beast to put his forelegs into the tent too. Then the camel said, "It's getting colder. Why not let me come entirely into your tent?" "Certainly," said the easy going Arab. "Come in." Before dawn the Arab awoke stiff with cold and covered with sand blown by the desert wind. He was outside the tent. The camel was sleeping comfortably inside the tent."

The Hebrew writer warns, "But exhort one another daily, while it is called today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:13). Sin is deceptive. It begins in a seemingly innocent way (just sticks it's nose in at first), yet, in a short time, sin, if allowed to continue, will be all the way in one's life. How many once faithful Christians are now unfaithful to the Lord because they have allowed sin to stick its nose in their lives? At first, they condemned sin, then begin to tolerate it, then condone and defend it and finally to embrace it in practice. The Bible warns, "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened to them according to the true proverb, the dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire" (2 Peter 2:20-22). Not a very pleasant thought is it. We plead with the unfaithful Christian to repent of sin, confess your sin to God and pray for His forgiveness (Acts 8:22; James 5:16; 1 John 1:7-9). Then make up your mind to live faithful to your Lord and Savior.

What a joy it is to be a Christian and have the hope of eternal life in heaven. But if you have a camel in your tent – if you have allowed sin to enter your life once again – then you have lost both the joy and the hope that was once yours. Please, examine your life, make the necessary changes you need to make to make Jesus the Lord of your life once again. Don't let sin deceive you. Get the camel out of your tent!