

All flesh is in His hands – even this hornet!

By Jon M. Taylor

I once attended a sacrament meeting in North Salt Lake on a hot summer afternoon. The air conditioning was not working, so doors and windows were open to cool the chapel. During the sacrament, a hornet flew in and buzzed around the bishopric and speakers on the stand.

I watched as the hornet tormented these hapless people. Some were cowering in fear, while others were swatting with their hands or hymn books. It soon became obvious to all those attending that this was a disturbance that would not go away.

When a member of the bishopric rose to open the meeting, the insect got into the act and buzzed around him over and over. He tried to act unperturbed and went on about his announcements.

The person leading the opening song was swatting away the hornet while waving the baton – a comical scene for such a sacred occasion. The sacrament was likewise disrupted. When the first speaker tried to deliver his message, he was greatly flustered and ineffective in communicating because of this trespasser. A shared feeling of discomfort and frustration seemed to envelope the whole congregation.

As I sat near the back corner on one side of the chapel, I witnessed this scene at first with amusement. However, my feelings turned to anxiety as the hornet became successful in driving the Spirit of the Lord from the meeting.

I began to feel indignant. Was not this the Lord's work? What right did this hornet have to come into this building and disrupt the spirit of this sacred meeting? Yet the hornet could not understand the consequences of what it was doing, so something had to be done to stop it. But the individuals on the stand had tried in vain to fend off the intruder.

As these thoughts went through my mind, I began to pray in my heart that something would be done to allow the meeting to go on undisturbed. Then this scripture flashed through my mind: ". . . all flesh is in mine hands." (*D&C 101:16*) I also remembered Nephi's teaching that "the Lord giveth no commandments to the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them." (*INephi 3:7*) We were attending sacrament meeting as commanded (*D&C 59:9*), so this hornet was literally interfering with our keeping a commandment of the Lord – at least with the proper spirit.

I felt I had my answer. Through faithful obedience the Lord can give us the power to overcome all things. (*D&C 50:35*) That would have to include this menacing intruder, blatantly disturbing the Lord's servants who were merely doing their duty. Again, since the Lord had said, "All flesh is in mine hands," that would have to include this hornet.

So I felt justified in asking the Lord for help. The request was spontaneous and natural and seemed appropriate, for this was the work of the Lord, and this interference was surely displeasing to Him.

I removed the handkerchief from my pocket, unfolded it, and held it cupped in my open hand, facing the stand. Then I silently prayed, "Father, send that hornet to me, and I will take care of it."

Immediately the hornet left the stand and flew in my direction – clear across the chapel to where I was seated. I raised my hand and caught the hornet in my handkerchief.

The meeting went on, and the spirit of the Lord returned. And my faith in the Lord's willingness to answer prayers – even for small but justified requests – was strengthened.