

Journey Enews

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Gnats and the Bible By Bobby Duncan

Well, it turns out gnats are a thing. They have been everywhere this year. In my nose, in my ears, at the office, in the kitchen, everywhere. They annoy me. How about you? I guess I shouldn't be surprised. They were third of the ten plagues God used in the Bible when Pharaoh refused to let the Israelite slaves go free.

Here's the verse: "The LORD said to Moses, 'Tell Aaron to strike the ground with his stick, and all over the land of Egypt the dust will change into gnats' "(Exodus 8:16).

I've been learning something about gnats and their behavior this summer. They move so fast you can hardly kill or eradicate them. No wonder Pharaoh was disgusted with them.

Connie and I have tried various home remedies involving bowls of vinegar. An occasional gnat maybe took a swim and died, but for the most part the trap was ignored. I've thought about trying a flyswatter. But having such quick, erratic movement, they're sure to be gone before the hammer drops.

I have made a breakthrough, though. When I've been patient enough to wait for a gnat to land on a nearby object (any size or firmness), a swift tap of my hand or even a finger on any part of the gnat is fatal. My conclusion: I've been trying too hard. I was swinging for the fences.

My initial approach was to slam my hand down hard on a hard surface, expecting to bury the gnat with force. I've found a more subtle approach is more effective. Not rushing in for the kill, but slowly tapping the pesky enemy with any part of my hand.

Result? Immediate death of the annoying gnat. My attempt to overpower the gnat was flawed. He could outmaneuver my attacks. However, my slower, calculated moves brought success. I assume the gnat's insect frame is quite frail. You don't need to drop a rock on his head. Just tap him a bit and it's over.

Maybe we've been making Satan too big of a deal. He easily outmaneuvers us, while also annoying us at the worst times. We're not Jesus. Maybe we should just hand this Satan thing over to the One who has power over death. A little tap from Jesus, just a spoken word, seems to send Satan running for the exits.

Demons wail, and pigs filled with demons run to their death over a cliff at Jesus' verbal command (Mark 5:1-16). What if we've all been trying too hard? We're no match for Satan and his demons. But Jesus has power over darkness and death. Whatever annoys us or whatever evil wants to harm us, Jesus has dealt with it before. Pray for Jesus to help.

Let's just agree: Satan is a gnat compared to God. Here's a sermon title to remember: "Gnats are no match for my God."

Go God.

