

OUR HOUSE OF MOUSE

by Laura L. Shaw

"You are my hiding place; You will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance." Psalm 32:8

Have you ever had a mouse in the house? How about one that you couldn't catch no matter what you tried? That was a problem for us last winter. We had one pesky mouse that wouldn't go into traps, that my dog couldn't catch...very quick & very clever. He even made a hole in the bottom of my loveseat to make himself a bit more comfortable. We thought we'd never catch him!

What was this mouse doing? Bear with me for just a minute. He was locked into the house, because my husband had so capably filled the hole on the outside of the house where he entered in the first place. He fed on crumbs, though I don't know where he got them with my house as squeaky clean as it is (HA!). He only came out when the humans weren't around and it was dark, and he remained hidden in a comfortable place that he made for himself. I'd like to draw two analogies (that eventually fall apart) from this scenario:

The most obvious is to picture ourselves in the mouse's shoes (lol) as a sinner. Even though we are Christians, we sometimes hide the deep part of ourselves from other Christians and even attempt to hide it from God Himself. We've even gotten a little comfortable in the secret place we've made for ourselves. We continue to feed on the small tidbits of doubt and fear and guilt, and we find ourselves growing away from the authenticity God desires from us. Scripture tells us several times, however, that He knows our "stuff" and has the ability to reveal it. Daniel 2:22 says *"HE reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with Him."* When I think of the "deep and hidden things" in my life, I don't just think of the active sins I've committed, but I also consider the passive ones: ***What are my motives, Lord? Have I grown complacent? Where am I looking for pleasure? What's causing this bitterness? Have I lost my deep concern for unbelievers? When will I stop feeling afraid?*** Do any of these thoughts sound familiar? As the Scripture said, none of this is hidden from Him, and He may choose to reveal it in His time—in one way, shape or form...our secret sins could rear their ugly heads. Thank goodness our outcome will be complete forgiveness and grace, instead of the mouse's outcome when he was finally caught.

The second similarity would be to liken ourselves to the mouse as a mature believer. (Keep holding the laughter in). In a way, wouldn't you like to be like that mouse spiritually? Though he was tiny in size, he was a giant problem to me. Oh, that we could be small in our own eyes and make a huge difference for Jesus Christ through the power of His Spirit at the same time (in turn, becoming a giant problem for Satan). If I would take the time to feed on God's Word, morsel by morsel, oh how I would grow in Him! If I could be so quick to flee from evil and rush to Him for safety, I would find Him there waiting with open arms. If I could hide myself in Him alone, the True and Only Rock that is higher than I, THEN...then I would become completely secure and comfortable living in it! Uh oh, I may be starting to like this mouse after all...

I encourage you to let go of the "stuff" you've buried. It **will** begin to rot and destroy—and even stink to those around you. It will probably come to the surface eventually, so let God have it now. He can make it a sweet

smelling aroma and a treasure to others in His time. He will bestow on you a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. You will be called an oak of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor. (Isaiah 61: 3) If you don't feel strong enough to give it all over, PRAY! He will help you release it to him, even if it be bit by bit, which is usually the case with me. Also, don't hesitate to find a mentor or a mature believer that can pray for you, too and help guide you into the Truth. Last, but the greatest of all: Memorize His Word...start with Psalm 119:11, "I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You." It's difficult to hide your heart from Him when His Word is hidden in your heart at the same time. Let's pray right now and give Him the glory for what He will begin to do in us.

Father, we praise You this moment for being all-knowing. You know what is hidden, and we pray that You will help us bring it to the surface. Become our Hiding Place, our Source and our Guide. Lead us to You and to any other believer that might be able to walk this road with us. Surround us with Your songs of deliverance as we run to You for safety and shelter. We choose to feed on You today. In Jesus' Name, Amen.