

The Loliondo Lion

This is a true story that I heard while I was in Tanzania serving as a missionary in 1989-1990. I went to Loliondo in the middle of the Serengeti Plains, and while there, heard the story and met the woman this happened to. She was actually the wife of the pastor of a small church we worked with while in the village. So Americans wouldn't be tripped up by the lesser known species of animals originally featured in the story, I changed the characters to a lion and a lamb instead of a leopard and an impala.

What you're about to hear is a true story.

Once, in a small African village, there was a woman cooking outside of her mud hut when suddenly she was startled by a noise in the bushes beyond her grill.

Slowly, carefully, sinisterly, like a cat trying to sneak up on a mouse, a wild lion appeared, crawling in a crouched position from underneath the thick. The thing was hungry, and its cold-blooded eyes were locked on the helpless woman.

Not wanting to frighten the lion into a premature attack, the woman backed up slowly and carefully toward her home. But the more she looked into the lion's wild eyes, the more her heart raced, and the more the adrenaline rushed through her veins.

Her instincts took over. She turned and ran toward the house, screaming for help. When she reached the door, she began pulling on the handle. Her husband, who had heard the commotion, was pulling the handle from the other side. The panicked woman forgot that the door pushed—not pulled—open. And unfortunately, she was winning the tug-of-war.

The lion would pounce any moment, and she braced for the worst pain of her life. Turning around to venture one last glance at the predator, she cried out, "Jesus, save me!"

In that very moment, a small lamb ran around the corner of the mud hut, and ran between the woman and the lion. The lion immediately chased the lamb and made its meal of the poor animal instead of the woman. The lamb saved her.

2000 years ago, a man named John the Baptist stood in the Jordan River, and pointed at a man named Jesus, saying, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

Jesus is that Lamb that saved you! When death was so near, Jesus took your sins upon Himself so you might live.

Romans 10:13 says, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." And you're a "whosoever," aren't you? Just like that woman in Africa, you can call on the Lord Jesus tonight, and be saved.