

A WORD WITH YOU - By Ron Hutchcraft

10224 – “The Animal Inside”

John 8:34

March 19, 2026

Sometimes during pro-football games, the camera focuses on a single player on the sidelines, the guy who just made that great play. And he'll look at the camera and he'll say those two words they almost always say, “Hi Mom!” See, it's just an indication of the debt that a lot of people owe to the love of their mother.

Six-year-old Stephen will owe a debt to his Mom that he can never repay. He was horseback riding with her and with his older brother and sister and they were near this ranching town in western Canada. A cougar ran right in front of Stephen, spooked his horse, and Stephen was thrown to the ground. Well, the cougar immediately pounced on that little boy. And his mother, Cindy, leaped from her horse, grabbed a stick and started hitting that cougar knowing that that cougar would turn his fury on her. Stephen's brother and sister dragged him to safety and then they rode for help as fast as they could. Stephen lived. His mother, Cindy, didn't. She took all the fury of the cougar so the son she loved wouldn't have to.

I'm Ron Hutchcraft and I want to have **A WORD WITH YOU** today about **“The Animal Inside.”**

It's pretty incredible love, isn't it? Well, you have been loved like that. Except the deadly animal that's tearing us apart lives inside us. It's that part of you that says those things that deeply hurt the people you love even though you don't really want to hurt them. It's whatever produces the dark side of you, that bitterness, the self-destructive thoughts, the adulterous inclinations, the anger. There's this side of us that we hate. The people we love hate it, God hates it – it's the animal inside. We seem powerless to fight it off. I mean, if we could have we would have by now.

Jesus named this animal. He said in John 8:34, “Everyone who sins is a slave to sin.” Sin is that untamable monster inside of us and the Bible is very blunt when it describes what this animal ultimately will do to us. It says, “Sin when it is full grown gives birth to death.” The wild animal of sin is a killer. It kills our relationships, it kills our self-respect, it kills our reputation, it kills our future, and ultimately it will take us to hell.

We are like little Stephen. We're helplessly at the mercy of this killer animal except that someone intervened; someone who loves us like no one ever loved us. In God's own words in 1 John 4:10, “This is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sin.” In other words, Jesus knew that you would not survive the fury of the animal called sin, so He turned all the fury of that animal on himself, on the cross. He basically said, “Take me, I will die so this one I love

doesn't have to." But the one who died was not a mother. It was the only Son of God. The death He took on Himself wasn't just physical, it was the agony of an eternal hell; an eternal separation from God. That's what He was absorbing when He died on the cross for you and me.

This incredible rescue could be your rescue this very day if this would be the day that you would put all your trust in this Savior to be your Savior. Has there ever been a time you did that? If you're not sure there has been, there probably hasn't been. Don't wait! Don't risk another day without this Savior. Open your life to Him and say, "Jesus, you are my only hope. Not my religion, not my goodness, nothing else I could ever depend upon. Jesus, I put my hope... all my hope on you. Beginning today, I'm yours."

There's a reason we call our website ANewStory.com, because it could be page one in a new story of your life. Would you check it out today? It's ANewStory.com.

Look, you know the power; you know the fury of this horrible animal called sin. It's time that you experienced the rescue of the One who loved you so much that He willingly turned the fury of your sin on Himself so you could live.

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