

Hosea 1:7

Magnum-itis

Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah, will save them by the Lord their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by the sword or battle, by horses or horsemen.

In my younger days, big guns and powerful bows were all the rage in my circle of friends. The older I get, the more I realize that while ‘magnum-itis’ is a fun hobby, it is not always the required level of energy I need. I still enjoy big bore firearms but find myself focusing more and more on putting the right bullet in the right spot, and not necessarily from the most powerful weapon I can hold.

With guns and bows, we achieve our aim (no pun intended) in the hunting field and on the target range. While we want to be properly armed for the task at hand, it is our skill that determines the extent of our success and enjoyment. Ultimately, the arm is just an extension of our physical and mental exercise. There is no spiritual element to the shooting experience. It’s all earthly, not necessarily worldly, and it sure won’t get us to heaven.

Think about your favorite firearm or bow. On a scale of 1-10 (ten being best), how would you rate your skill with it? What is your effective range with it? And what will you do to make yourself better with it? Now, think about your Bible reading. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your regularity? What will you do to make yourself a more effective Bible reader? And, how will you use God’s Word to tell your outdoor friends about Jesus?

TIP: There’s a thing called hitting with authority in the hunting field. This means using the right cartridge from the right firearm with the right bullet placed in the right spot. Change any of these factors and disaster may follow. The same can be said for being properly equipped with a bow.

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Hosea 1:7 (Study Guide)

Magnum-itis

HOOK

1. Why do you enjoy being outdoors? Or, what draws you to the wilderness?

2. Describe the good things you see in a thunder storm... a blizzard... a prairie fire... a volcano.

3. Tell about your most challenging outdoor experience, good or bad.

LINE

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Think about your favorite firearm or bow. On a scale of 1-10 (ten being best), how would you rate your skill with it? What is your effective range with it? And what will you do to make yourself better with it? Now, think about your Bible reading. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your regularity? What will you do to make yourself a more effective Bible reader? And, how will you use God's Word to tell your outdoor friends about Jesus?

On a scale of 1-10, 10 being best, how would you rate the regularity of your Bible reading? What will you do to improve your score?

Using a Bible, or from memory, write three Scriptures you will use to tell your friends how they can experience the forgiveness of Jesus and eternal life with Him.

SINKER

Take a few minutes to write your thoughts on this devotional. Reflect on your own experiences.

Key words: God draws us God brings us God speaks to us
