

Sunday, March 20, 2022

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Title: A Time of Warfare - Exodus 17:8- 16

Series: The Journey of Faith ... 8

Purpose: I want to PERSUADE my congregation to BELIEVE that God has appointed set times of battle in our life that we might know the VICTORY that comes through obedience to the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

Introduction:

The devotional for last week was entitled, "Never Thirst Again" and the text was Exodus 17:1 – 7:

1. A People on the Move 2. A People Needing Water

3. A People with a Solid Rock Experience

~ The Word of God clearly teaches that there is an ongoing active WARFARE between the Kingdom of God and the dominion of Satan.

~ Some believers have the notion that if they are walking in the WILL of God they will not encounter opposition or warfare.

~ Where he leads there are enemies to fight; but thanks be unto God; for we are able to be more than conquerors (Romans 8:37).

1. A Set Time for Battle:

~ Exodus 17:8, "Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim."

I have become persuaded that God appoints set times of conflict for His children to face; the conflict is permitted to allow His child to experience God's power in their life. - Remember Exodus 13:17

~ The LORD led them to:

i) Healing at Marah - Exodus 15:22 – 26

ii) Rest at Elim - Exodus 15:27

iii) Manna at Sin - Exodus 16

iv) Water from the Rock - Exodus 17:1 - 7

~ NOW Exodus 17:8: The sequence of events may have significance, however, I have come to trust 1 Cor. 10:13 "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

~ Illustration: A child takes swimming lessons for several weeks. At the end of the lessons the parents are invited to the pool. The instructor has your child jump into the deep end of the pool and swim to the other end. Is the instructor trying to drown your child? After several weeks the instructor KNOWS the child's ability; you need to see it for yourself.

2. The Enemy:

~ The Bible teaches there are three PRIMARY enemy manifestations:

i) Satan or the Devil: Pharaoh is a type of Satan: spiritual death, slavery, and fear: 1 John 3:8, "Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."

Colossians 1:9 – 14

ii) The World: James 3:14 – 17, "But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. (15) This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. (16) For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. (17) But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere."

Romans 12:1 – 2

iii) Self: Romans 7:23 - 25; 1 Corinthians 9:24 - 27

~ Amalek – one with a spiritual heritage but NO spiritual life!

~ "Amalek represents the flesh, He was of the seed of Esau, the carnally minded man who sold his birthright for a mess of pottage; who walked the way of the flesh and lost his inheritance. Amalek was always found INSIDE the Israelites' camp." Dr. Stephen F. Olford

~ Exodus 12:38, "A mixed multitude also went up with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds."

~ Mark 7:13, "thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do."

3. The Battle:

~ The world will bombard us seeking to press us into its mold.

Joshua 24:15, "And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

~ The bombardment will be continuous. Exodus 17:16

~ The battle is a witness against the world. Exodus 17:14

4. The Victory:

~ The victory is won under the BANNER! Exodus 17:15

~ Joshua wins with the sword. Exodus 17:13

~ Victory is secured with praise and prayer. Exodus 15:15

~ HAVE SAINTS WHO WILL LIFT YOU UP!!!

Conclusion:

Lloyd John Ogilvie aptly states that whenever Christ "is at work in our character, that's when Satan builds up his forces of resistance. Once Christ calls us to be His person, the battle begins. As Christ moves into all the areas of our lives to make us totally His and more and more like Him, we can be sure that Satan will dig in and resist that invasion at those points where we are the most vulnerable."

Prayer for Ukraine

Lord,

We need You. We praise You for giving us courage and strength when we ask. The people of Ukraine need courage during this time of upheaval. Their homes and environment are changing from minute to minute. Men, women, and families of all ages are leaving their homes to escape the violence of war. Trains, buses, and other vehicles are lining up to provide refuge and help each person hopefully find peace.

As the people gather some of their needed belongings and try to keep their family together, please give them courage. Cover each person with the full armor of God. Help the people to make the right decisions according to Your plan.

Fill each man, woman, and child with the courage to endure the unknown and fearful days and nights. Build them up with the strength only You can provide.

Please give courage to the doctors, nurses, other medical professionals, and volunteers as they seek to provide comfort and care to those in need.

As warning sirens continue to sound and blasts light up the night sky, we ask for You to give everyone courage. Remind them of Your love and mercy, dear Father.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus, Amen.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation- whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life- of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1NIV)