

*“Fighting Together & Trying to Win Alone” (Exodus 17:7-16)*

*~ INTRO ~*

SOME TIME AGO

- My garage door wasn't working right...
  - And I was trying to fix it.

I REALIZED I COULDN'T DO IT BY MYSELF & NEEDED SOME HELP...

- So I called my wife out to the garage interrupting what she was doing...
  - So she was already a little annoyed.

I TOLD HER I NEEDED HER TO PULL THE RED HANDLE...

- While I steadied the door...
  - But she didn't understand why I couldn't just do it myself.

IN THE PROCESS OF HER ASKING...

- What was so hard that I couldn't handle it myself...
  - She walks over and pulls the red handle while I'm not looking...
    - And the garage door slams to the ground!
      - Bending & damaging the whole bottom slab.
  - To which I looked at her and said, 'That's why!'

WE WEREN'T ON THE SAME PAGE...

- And we weren't working together...
  - Pulling in the same direction...
    - And things came crashing down – literally

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN EXODUS 17...

- When God's people aren't working together under his direction...
  - Moment stalled / quarreling began / division erupted...
    - And the enemy found his chance to attack.
  - So I've titled today's message...
    - “Fighting Together & Trying to Win Alone”

*~ RECAP ~*

TO THIS POINT IN EXODUS...

- We see God miraculously delivering His people thru the Red Sea...
  - (Ex. 14)

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- Then the people grumble to God & against Moses...
  - At the bitter water of Marah (Ex. 15)
- And in the wilderness of Sin they complain about having no food...
  - So God provides manna (Ex. 16)

NOW THEY ARE FACED WITH NO WATER...

- And the complaining & arguing continues...
  - Until God provides water in the rock.
    - (Ex. 17)
- By the time we reach (v. 7)...
  - The people have turned their swords on each other...
    - And Moses memorializes their failure...
      - By naming cities after their bad behavior!

HERE'S A FEW THINGS...

- We can learn tonight.

~ IDEA 1 – Conflict Reveals Weakness (v. 7) ~

(v. 7)

AS MOSES NAMES THESE CITIES...

- He's describing what is happening with the people...
  - And he's giving insight into a spiritual condition.
    - Grumbling / complaining / arguing / rebelling.

EVERY TIME GOD'S PEOPLE...

- Were faced with a difficulty on the way to the Promised Land...
  - Their response was to critique & criticize Moses...
    - And to question God's power & care.
- Instead of growing in trust...
  - They responded with conflict.
    - A pattern is beginning to form.

THIS PREACHES TO THE CHURCH TODAY...

- Because we tend to set our sights...

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- On the pathway of least resistance...
  - And forget all the promises of God...
    - When we’re in times of trouble.
- And conflict tends to show up...
  - When we take our eyes off the Lord...

THIS REVEALS THE WEAKNESS IN OUR LIFE...

- That the Lord wants to strengthen...
  - Giving spiritual insight!

FOR THE CHURCH...

- This is completely contrary to what we’re instructed to do (1 Cor. 1:10) NLT
- Conflict can reveal the genuineness of our faith (1 Cor. 11:18-19) NLT
  - If it moves to fighting & division like it did here.
  - The church that should have been fighting together in unity...
    - Was actually wounding itself with division.

THE DIVISION REVEALED A WEAKNESS...

- In the church of Corinth...
  - And reveals the areas of weakness in our lives individually...
    - And our church corporately...
      - Can’t move on until we get it right!

~ IDEA 2 – Don’t Give Room For The Enemy (vv. 8-10) ~

(vv. 8-10)

THE ENEMY TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK...

- When they were in a place of rest...
  - Because the conflict had worn them down...
    - And they thought the fight was over!
- The enemy knew...
  - They could not effectively be on guard...
    - When their swords were turned toward each other

SO MOSES CAME UP WITH A PLAN...

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- Joshua would lead the army in the valley...
  - While he / Aaron / Hur would stand on the hill...
    - Taking the posture of prayer.

THIS WASN'T AN OFFENSIVE BATTLE PLAN...

- It was a defensive response because Israel left themselves exposed...
  - It wasn't because they were taking territory for the Lord...
    - It was because they were vulnerable to the attack.

THIS IS A POWERFUL INSIGHT FOR THE BELIEVER...

- Especially when it comes to the idea of conflict...
  - When it's not done right...
    - We leave the door open for the enemy.

TURN WITH ME TO (EPH. 4:26-27) NLT

- Paul teaches us about being angry...
  - And tells us about a foothold for Satan.
- Think about the idea of a foothold – maybe rock climbing.
  - Lit. Means: Opportunity, power, or occasion for acting.
    - The general use of the word would be for describing...
      - A space that's marked off or set aside.

HERE'S THE POINT...

- Unresolved conflict allows Satan room to work in your life.
  - Like portioning off the situation...
    - So the Lord is not allowed to work...
      - It's been marked off for the enemy.
        - “Reserved for Satan's use”

**~ IDEA 3 – Finding Victory For the People of God (vv. 11-16) ~**

(vv. 11-16)

HERE'S THREE THINGS WE CAN OBSERVE...

- That led to the defeat of the Amalikes.

#1 – MOSES' RAISED HANDS

MOSES TOOK THE POSTURE OF PRAYER...

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- Interceding for the warriors fighting the battle...
  - And seeking God’s power through dependence.
- When he did this the battle was won...
  - When he didn’t do this the battle was lost.

FOR THE CHURCH...

- Victory depends on God’s power accessed through a place of dependence.

#2 – SUPPORT FROM AARON & HUR

MOSES COULD NOT SUSTAIN THIS POSTURE ALONE...

- It required the help of others to stand by him & help support his arms.
  - They took initiative & stepped into an uncomfortable position to help

FOR THE CHURCH...

- Victory requires shared responsibility & unity together under God’s authority.

#3 – THE LORD AS BANNER

IN THE ANCIENT WORLD A BANNER/STANDARD...

- Was used as a rallying point in battle.
  - Soldiers looked for the standard to regroup, align, and advance.
    - If the banner fell - confusion set in and the army scattered.

BY BUILDING AN ALTER AND NAMING IT (YAHWEH-NISSI)

- He was declaring to Israel...
  - Victory was secured not by their swords...
    - But by God’s presence and power.

FOR ISRAEL...

- The banner wasn’t a flag — it was the LORD Himself.
  - Their strength and unity came from gathering under His name.

FOR THE CHURCH...

- We are to remember that Christ is our banner...
  - And the cross is our rallying point...
    - To be unified / on mission / and moving forward together!

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THE CLOSING APPLICATION FOR US...

- Comes from [\(Phil. 1:27\) NLT](#)...

THE KEY TO OUR EFFECTIVENESS...

- Is when we are unified together!

SO WE CAN REFLECT TODAY...

- Have I been a help or support for God’s people...
  - Or have I been a hinderance?

LET ME BE CLEAR TODAY...

- This isn’t about the Pastor(s) being too busy for you...
  - Or about silencing real needs & questions...
    - That’s what shepherds are called to do!
- This message does confront...
  - The arguing / complaining / & resisting...
    - Attitude within the Body of Christ.
      - The kind of division that weakens the momentum...
        - And opens the door to the enemy.

THE CALL FOR US IS...

- Am I being a help – lifting hands / supporting / furthering the mission...
- Or am I being a hinderance – quarreling / complaining / dragging down?

*~ IN CLOSING (CALL WORSHIP TEAM) ~*