



Sermon Series Notes

“Winning the Present Conflict Associated With the Kingdom” (Ephesians 6:10-18)

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Summary on the kingdom of God series: We've looked at what the kingdom is, where the kingdom is, parables of the kingdom, who is the greatest in the kingdom, worship worthy of the kingdom, characteristics of the kingdom, & lifestyle worthy of the kingdom. Though we could cover more subjects related to the kingdom of God, this will be our last in this series. Next we will study the gospel according to Mark.

Read Eph.6:10-12; One translation says we “wrestle” not against flesh and blood. A wrestling match is a contest between two people whereby one attempts to throw the other to the ground and pin them.

Conflict: Battle, fight, war, struggle

The reality of this conflict. This is not a movie.

Daniel 10: 12 Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. 13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

I Peter 5: 8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Luke 22: 31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

"The devil has no moral principles, no code of honor...(his demons) recognize no Geneva Convention to restrict or partially civilize the weapons of their warfare. Satan is utterly...ruthless in the pursuit of his malicious designs...he is also cunning...force and fraud form his chief offensive against the saints."

The devil will use, fear, intimidation, distraction, & deception.

II Cor.11: 14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness.

We need to understand and appreciate the power of our adversary.

Jude 9 But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

See Acts 19: 13-16; I cannot simply use the name of Jesus to win the battle against the enemy. I must have a relationship with Jesus.

King Saul tried to get David to wear his battle armor to go against Goliath, but David was not used to wearing physical armor for the battles he faced. So he took off the physical armor and went out against Goliath with spiritual armor. That is exactly what we must do if we are to win the present conflict between two very real kingdoms.

Read Eph.6:13; Jesus said that every day has enough evil of its own. But there is a day of evil. Satan schemes, plans, and he is very patient. If his plan does not work the first time, he will try again, and again.

Luke 4:13...then Satan left him until an opportune time.

God has provided for us a complete array of armor, and if we will put this armor on, and wear it daily, we will win the battle against our adversary. If we fail to take advantage of this armor, we will suffer casualty as a result.

Our first piece of armor is found in the first part of verse 14.

v.14a The belt of truth

It is not the Word of God (v.17b)

It is the absence of falsehood; no hypocrisy; The belt of truth keeps your spiritual pants up! (Don't get caught with your pants down).

Psalm 51: 6 Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

I John 1: 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.

II Kings 5:24-27 (Gehazi); Samson; Acts 5 (Ananias & Sapphira)

Num.32:23...You may be sure your sin will find you out.

Proverbs 28:13 Whoever conceals his sin does not prosper; but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

v.14b The breastplate of righteousness

This is not salvation (v.17a); This is a righteous life as a result of being truly saved. See I Peter 2:24; Rom.6:13; Eph.4:28.

Some are already defeated because of the unrighteous way they are living. The only path to victory is repentance.

v.15 Gospel shoes

The Roman soldier wore a half-boot which was tied to the ankles and shins with leather straps. These boots had a heavily nail-studded sole, which gave traction and stability, just like today's cleated sports shoe.

It is peace with God (See Rom.5:1-2a); It is also actively sharing the gospel

Mark 16: 15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

Philemon 6 I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

Isaiah 52: 7 How beautiful on the mountains are *the feet* of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation...

v.16 The shield of faith

Luke 22: 31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that *your faith* may not fail.

What are some of the flaming arrows that Satan shoots at us?

Fear/Intimidation

John 12: 42 Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

It was fear that caused Peter to three times deny the Lord, and all the apostles to desert Jesus in his greatest hour of need. It was fear that caused thousands in Gideon's army to flee (see below).

Judges 7: 3 Announce now to the people, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.'" So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

It was fear that caused Saul and the whole Israelite army to hide from the Philistines. Even after they did draw up the battle lines, no one would go out and face Goliath.

God is looking for people like Jonathan, who while his own father was cowering in fear before the enemy, went out with his armor-bearer and took on a whole Philistine outpost (I Samuel 14). He is looking for those with the faith of young David, who went out and faced Goliath, by faith. He is looking for some Esthers, who by faith will lay their life down for the cause of God's people, and the increase of his kingdom on earth.

Doubt (especially regarding God's integrity); The Garden of Eden; Job's wife, curse God and die; Jeremiah's complaint (Jer.12:1-4; 20:7-8, 14-15, 18); Psalm 73:1-4, 13-16.

Prov.3: 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

See Heb.11:32-38

Ken Connolly's Definition: Faith is a life that dares to commit beyond its means, expecting what sense cannot certify, based on God's promise, dependent on God's supply, motivated for God's glory, and *confident in God's integrity*.

James 1: 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

I John 5: 4 For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

v.17a The helmet of salvation

Keeps me from "losing my head." See II Tim.4:5a

Enables me to face death without fear

Heb.2: 14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil--15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Daniel, Hananiah, Azariah, Mischael

Keeps my head in the clouds Eph.2:4-6; Col.3:1-4

Heb.11: 24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. I Cor.15: 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

v.17b The sword of the Spirit

This is the Roman "machaira." It was a double edged short sword, a most effective weapon in hand to hand combat.

It is the "word" of God

When Biblical authors wanted to refer to the whole Bible, all of its parts and all of its books and all of its chapters and verses—all the teachings written down and recorded in the Bible—they used the Greek word *logos*. *Logos* means "word" but when used of Scripture, it refers to all of the written Word of God, all of the Bible, in its entirety, as it is written down with pen and ink on the pages of Scripture. That is the *logos*. But *logos* is not the Greek word Paul uses here. Instead, he uses the word *rhema*. *Rhema*, as used here, and in Ephesians 5:26, and elsewhere in Scripture, does not refer to the entire Bible in its written form. Instead, it refers to speaking individual verses and passages from the Bible. *Logos* is the entire written Word. *Rhema* is when individual verses or passages from the Bible are spoken.

Psalms 1:1-3; Joshua 1:8

Psalms 119: 11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

The more sword in my sheath, the more weapon in my hand. Jesus used this weapon against the devil when he tempted him in the wilderness.

When you are tempted by the lust of the flesh, what Scripture do you use to defend yourself?

Heb.13:4 Marriage should be honored by all...God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral; Prov.7:26-27 Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain is a mighty throng. Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death. When you are tempted with self-glory, what Scripture do you use to defend yourself? Isaiah 28:1 Woe to the crown of pride...whose glorious beauty is a fading flower...

When you tempted with the lust of the eyes, what Scripture do you use to defend yourself?

Luke 12:15 A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions, and

Matt.16:26 What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world, and lose his soul.

v.18a Prayer

This is the last but not least weapon.

I got up early one morning and rushed right into the day, I had so much to accomplish I didn't have time to pray; Troubles just tumbled about me, and heavier came each task. Why doesn't God help me, I wondered, he answered, "Why child, you didn't ask." I tried to come into God's presence, I used all the keys at the lock. God gently and lovingly chided, "Why child, you didn't knock." I wanted to see joy & beauty, but the day toiled on gray and bleak. I called on the Lord for the reason, He said, child, you didn't seek." I woke up early this

morning and paused before entering the day. I had so much to accomplish, that I had to take time to pray.

Mark 1:35-36; Luke 5:15-16; Jesus made prayer a priority in His life. Jesus' prayer for Peter obviously made a difference, that his faith would not fail. I have used this weapon on behalf of my children, my relatives, CCSP, etc. James 5:16...The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

James 5:16

CONCLUSION

Not only do we need to don this armor God has provided for us in order to win the daily battle against the enemy, we need to don this armor so that the Lord's army becomes a powerful force to reckon with. The more ready and equipped warriors we have, the more victories we will win together. Prepare for battle!