

“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!

~ 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.

THIS PREACHES TO THE CHURCH TODAY...

- Because we tend to set our sights...
 - On the pathway of least resistance...
 - And forget all the promises of God...
 - When we're in times of trouble.

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- And conflict tends to show up...
 - When we take our eyes off the Lord...
 - And reveals the weakness in our life...
 - That the Lord wants to strengthen.
 - (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 – Giving Room For The Enemy (vv. 8-10) ~

(vv. 8-10)

WHEN THE PEOPLE WERE IN A PLACE OF REST...

- That's when the enemy decided to attack...
 - They could not effectively be on guard...
 - When their swords were turned toward each other

MOSES HAD COME UP WITH A PLAN...

- 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...

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- 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 – 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 Amaliktes.

#1 – MOSES' RAISED HANDS

MOSES TOOK THE POSTURE OF PRAYER...

- 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

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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!

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?

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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) ~