

Have Faith, Faint not – part 2

Today's message comes from 2 Samuel 17 and in it we will read about an attack that was being prepared against King David. We will also read about Absalom. Absalom was David's 3rd son who, in a fit of rage and envy, rebelled against his father and made himself king. As he ponders his next move against David, decides to seek counsel from two of the kingdom's advisors: first Ahithophel and then Hushai.

Opening Text: 2 Samuel 17:1-2

I

We are not to be ignorant of the enemy's devices (2 Cor.2:11). Here are 5 basic traits of your enemy and how he attacks:

1. He doesn't play fair

12000 men against one man – that is disproportionate force, that is what we would call, 'an overkill'.

Isaiah 59:19b *“When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.”*

He comes like a flood. Don't expect the enemy to play fair. Don't expect him to know or respect any rules of engagement.

2. He's a shady character

V1. *“and I will rise and pursue David tonight”*- the enemy chooses the dark of night, shadows, concealment and deception.

He doesn't always come against you in an obvious way.

Ephesians 5:11 - *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.*

3. He's an opportunist

V.2 - *“I will come upon him while he is weary and weak,”*

Often, he won't attack when you are strong and at your best. He waits for those moments when you may be depleted and tired.

We have to be careful about those times when we are run down, emotionally exhausted, when we haven't rested properly. The enemy chooses those moments to unleash his attack.

Luke 4:2-3 - *being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. ³And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”*

The enemy picked the right moment.

V.13 - *Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.*

The devil is an opportunist. That is why the bible says, ‘*give no place to the devil*’ (Eph.4:27).

4. He is a bully

v. 2 I will come upon him while he is weary and weak, and make him afraid.”

Fear is a spirit that God hasn’t given us!

Psalms 91:5 - *You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day,*

Fear not, have faith in God! (we’ll talk more about this next week).

5. He will try to isolate you

V2b - And all the people who are with him will flee, and I will strike only the king”.

The enemy always seeks to isolate individuals. Once disconnected, we will be vulnerable.

Acts 4:23-24KJV - *²³And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.²⁴And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:*

II

Absalom also sought the advice of Hushai:

2 Samuel 17: 5-10

David had a reputation as a powerful warrior, an experienced fighter, someone with a track record of victories that would cause the heart of the enemy to melt completely (v10).

Three things that give you an advantage over the enemy:

1. Your spiritual reputation

What is your “spiritual reputation”? Have you ever thought about that? Jesus and Paul had a powerful spiritual reputation:

Acts 19:15 - *And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?”*

We need to remember that we stand behind the reputation of Jesus. He disarmed principalities and powers and triumphed over them. We are in Him, shielded by His

reputation. The finished work of Christ is our victory against the enemy. Who you are in Christ and where you stand is your advantage over the enemy.

2. The purposes of God

2 Samuel 17: 14

Ultimately, we have to believe that God's purpose for our lives will stand and will override any of the enemy's plans against us.

It was not Ahithophel's counsel that prevailed by the Lord's:

Proverbs 19:21 *"There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the Lord's counsel—that will stand."*

3. The fact that God will never be unprepared, surprised or outsmarted by the enemy.

While David rested that night somewhere in the fields, he had no idea of what was being arrayed against him. It didn't matter because God knew and because He knew, his deliverance and victory were already in motion... while David rested.

- a) Verse 14 shows us that God's purpose was actively unfolding
- b) In verse 15 and 16 we also see that Hushai was in fact a spy, an undercover agent, working for David.

Romans 8:28 - *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

Conclusion

Faint not, have faith!

Faint not, fear not, stagger not, consider not the circumstances!

- Consider who you are in Christ
- Consider that God has a purpose
- Consider that that He will never be unprepared, surprised or outsmarted by the enemy.