

A Lesson from Ephraim

Psalm 78

9

The men of Ephraim, though armed with bows,
turned back on the day of battle;

10

they did not keep God's covenant
and refused to live by his law.

11

They forgot what he had done,
the wonders he had shown them.

This is what's Interesting:

- There is no clear Biblical cross-reference to this exact battle and the men of Ephraim turning back...
- What we do know is the tribe of **Ephraim** was one of the larger tribes of Israel.
- Unfortunately they are remembered for being hot tempered, big talkers that actually did little.
- Their failure to follow through and even retreat when they were needed makes them a symbol unfaithfulness and backsliding...

Judges 8:1-3

Now the Ephraimites asked Gideon, "Why have you treated us like this? Why didn't you call us when you went to fight Midian?" And they challenged him vigorously.

Judges 12 NKJV

Then the men of Ephraim gathered together, crossed over toward Zaphon, and said to Jephthah, "Why did you cross over to fight against the people of Ammon, and did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house down on you with fire!"

2 And Jephthah said to them, "My people and I were in a great struggle with the people of Ammon; and when I called you, you did not deliver me

out of their hands. 3 So when I saw that you would not deliver *me*, I took my life in my hands and crossed over against the people of Ammon; and the Lord delivered them into my hand.

Psalm 78

9

The men of Ephraim, though armed with bows,
turned back on the day of battle;

This is startling to me...

Though armed with bows they turned back on the day of battle...

All the preparation...

All the effort...

Everything a warrior does, only to give up...

When they were needed the most they gave up...

I wonder who they quit on that day...

Who was trusting that they would stay and fight...

Can I tell you God has called us to finish the race he has for us...

He prepares us for the Battles we face...

In the same way, God makes spiritual resources available to us for the spiritual battles we face.

The effectiveness of those resources depends on us to make use of them.

2 Peter 1

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your **faith goodness**; and to goodness, **knowledge**; 6 and to knowledge, **self-control**; and to self-control, **perseverance**; and to perseverance, **godliness**; 7 and to godliness, **mutual affection**; and to mutual affection, **love**.

add to your Faith-**Goodness**: Virtue - Box of Donuts

to Goodness-**Knowledge**: Understanding - Graduation Cap

to Knowledge-**Self Control**: To master your desires - Wedding Ring

to Knowledge-**Perseverance**: Endurance - Running Shoes

to Perseverance-**Godliness**: Reverence - Bible

to Godliness-**Mutual Affection**: Philadelphia; Brotherly Love - Heart *1 Peter 1:22 "Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, **love one another deeply, from the heart.**"*

to Mutual Affection-**Love**: Agape; affection, good will, love, benevolence - Puppy

8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you know what it would take to add these to your life?

- Time & Devotion
- There are some things only can do
- No-one else can do it for you

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They forgot what he had done,
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for they did not believe in God
or trust in his deliverance.

- The Men of Ephraim, though armed with bows, turned back on the day of battle because their hearts were far from God...
- **Apathy**: lack of interest, enthusiasm or concern
- They didn't keep God's Covenant - Because they forgot...
- Refused to live by his law - Because they forgot...

Why did they forget?

- They neglected Time & Devotion to God
- There are some things only you can do
- No-one else can do it for you

10 Virgins

5 were Wise

5 were Foolish

5 were Ready

5 were Not Ready

5 Had Oil

5 Had None

What is the Oil?

Your Time and Devotion to God...

A Lesson from the Men of Ephraim

To win the Battle God has called you to fight:

1. Make time for God...
2. Make time for Devotion...
3. Keep His Word...
4. Remember what He has Done..