

WAGING WAR – Our Commander

October 14-15, 2023

“Is there anyone that fails? Is there anyone that falls? Am I the only one in church today, feeling so small? ‘Cause when I take a look around, everybody seems so strong; I know they’ll soon discover, that I don’t belong. So, I tuck it all away, like everything’s okay; if I make ‘em all believe it, maybe I’ll believe it, too. So, with a painted grin, I play the part again, so everyone will see me, the way that I see them” – ***Casting Crowns, Stained Glass Masquerade***

Joshua 5:13-15 (NIV) – Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to Him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?” “Neither”, He replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come”. Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked Him, “What message does my Lord have for His servant?” The commander of the Lord’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy”. And Joshua did so.

Joshua 5:13b-14a (NKJV) – And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, “Are you for us or for our adversaries?” So, He said, “No, but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come”.

Isaiah 5:18-21 (NIV) – “Woe to those who draw sin along with cords of deceit, and wickedness as with cart ropes, to those who say, ‘Let God hurry; let Him hasten His work so we may see it. The plan of the Holy One of Israel – let it approach, let it come into view, so we may know it’. Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight”.

“They flatter themselves by imagining that what is sin is not sin, or by some excuse or idle pretense they lessen its enormity. These, then, are cords, wicked ropes, by which they draw iniquity” – ***John Calvin***

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Romans 2:13-16 (NIV) - “For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God’s sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them). This will take place on the day when God judges people’s secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares”.

Hebrews 4:15-16 (NIV) – “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet He did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need”.

Luke 4:3-8 (NIV) – The devil said to Him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread”. Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone’”. The devil led Him up to a high place and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to Him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours”. Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only’”.

“When human beings worship that which is not God, they give authority to forces of destruction and malevolence; and those forces gain a power” –
N.T. Wright

Luke 4:9-13 (NIV) – The devil led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God”, he said, “throw

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yourself down from here. For it is written: ‘He will command His angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone’”. Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test’”. When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left Him until an opportune time.

Luke 22:31-32 (NIV) – “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers”.

Acts 4:11-13 (NIV) – “Jesus is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone’. Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved”. When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.