

Life's Battles

I. Announce:

A. Slide 1-3 Men's Breakfast. Easter. Baptism.

II. Slide 4 Intro: Life's Battles

A. Life's Battles: How to Meet bad news, and How to Find Help in God.

B. About the time one problem is solved, another one begins.

Have you ever asked ... can things get any worse? (than this Psalm is for you)

1. David lost some battles, but won the war.

a) He was leading one battle and praying about another. (Wiersbe)

2. Do you know it is/will be the same with you?

a) So much of the OT was a *shadow* of a spiritual reality. Things that took place in the physical world of Israel were *spiritual parables or representations of spiritual realities with God*.

C. Backstory: Our story is from 2 Sam. 8 of King David's conquests

(David's defeat over: Edom, Moab, Ammon, Philistia, Amalek, & Hadadezer).

1. David was already anointed king (2 Sam. 5). David moved ark to Jer. (6). David already received his unconditional covenant from God re: *promise of an unending royal lineage/Son of David. Davidic Cov* (2 Sam. 7).

D. Life's Battles: How to Meet bad news, and How to Find Help in God.

III. Slide 5 HOW TO MEET BAD NEWS (1-3) READ

A. Lord, here's how I feel, *You've rejected us*.

B. Oh God, you = 6 x's - David rapid fires these pronouns as he traces all of the hard things *right back to God*.

1. Not on the might of the enemy, not happenstance, not some intermediate point in the chain of causation, but God (God's in control of all things).

- C. **Rejected** - *have you ever felt rejected by God?* ... you're in good company (David).
- D. (2) **earthquake** imagery works with anything that we think is secure. God will **shake down or split open** whatever is *not fit to stand*.
- E. (3) Like being in a drunken state, inward confusion.

IV. Slide6 **HOW TO FIND HELP IN GOD (4-12)**

- A. Slide7a **FLEE TO THE FLAG (4) READ**
- B. David shows confidence in God's future deliverance **and** notes that God has still provided a rallying point in the face of attack.
- C. Slide7b **Lord Is My Banner** (YHWH Nissi) - *a Divine title/Name, military standard, a piece of cloth bearing an army insignia, a Flag, Identity, Security.*
1. This Title/Name came from Ex.17:8-16. The story of Israel's 1st dealing with the Amalekites. *Moses/Aaron/Hur* on the mnt, hand lifted in prayer; *Joshua* in the valley fighting the fight; **God** above both **winning the war**.
- D. Today we would say *the Lord is my flag*. I pledge my allegiance to **Him**.
1. **Soldiers always look to their Flag**. It establishes their **identity**. It helps them to know **who they are**. On the battlefield it also helps them **keep their bearings** and gives them **courage** and **hope**. **As long as their Flag is still flying, they know that the battle is not lost**.
 2. Everyone has a banner/flag, something they look to, for **identity** and **security**. Some people spend their whole lives chasing after it, without ever reaching a place of rest. **What is your banner? What is the emblem of your hope? What do you look for courage and times of difficulty and despair?** Moses had the best answer, he said, **the Lord is my banner**. (**not Jesus** has a banner, **but** is my banner) **Rally to Him!**
 3. (msg) **Then you planted a flag to rally your people, an unfurled flag to look to for courage**.
- E. **When we feel rejected by God** - There are many times that we endure very hard times in our lives, when we feel that we are **rejected by God**.

1. Slide7c It is during those times that we need to remember to: [1] *set up and rally under God's banner* and [2] *flee to or run to His word of truth.*
2. We must be under His banner ... of truth.

F. S.o.S.2:4 *He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.*

G. Slide8a YOUR BELOVED ONES (5) READ

H. (5) *your beloved ones* - this is the language of love poetry. It appeals to the strongest of bonds, the most passionate of relationships. [ps: David's name means *beloved*]

1. We need to realize that even though there are problems, struggles and battles in life, God still loves us.
2. Slide8b Rom.8:35,37 NLT *Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ... 37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.*
 - a) His love cannot change and will not fail, no matter how we feel.
3. Slide8c S.o.S.6:3 *I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine.* In the middle of battles remind yourself over and over ... *God loves you!*

I. Slide9a SOVEREIGN OVER ALL NATIONS (6-8) READ

J. Listen to God's sovereignty over these nations (I, me, my).

K. Slide9b Show Map: Gilead/also Succoth was East of Jordan. Manasseh straddled the river Jordan. Ephraim and Judah were the principal tribes West of it/also Shechem.

1. Ephraim & Judah were *helmet* & *scepter*, 2 chief agents of *defense & rule*

L. (8) *Moab is my washbasin* - I picture an *old spaghetti pot* in my garage, I only use for cleaning dirty floors. Also, probably called this because it's in the vicinity of the Dead Sea.

M. *Upon Edom I cast my shoe* - the picture is possibly a man returning home and flinging his shoes to a slave or into a corner. (Edom is a humbled servant)

- N. **Philistia** - Both Saul and David gained their reputations by defeating the Philistines.
- O. In my intro I said, *about the time one problem is solved, another one begins.*
1. **The Red Arrows**: David & Joab were fighting 2 enemies up north when they receive aid w/a *strategic flanking of allies in South* (Moab & Edom).
- P. God, *David's commander-in-chief*, is basically saying, *Wherever you go in Israel, it all belongs to Me; I own the land. So stop worrying!*
1. When you hear God talk like that, you don't have to be afraid. (Hear Him in His word today)
- Q. **Slide10 CALCULATED CONCERNS** (9,10)
- R. After God speaks (6-8) *David asks for help in battle*.
1. God cannot cast off forever; **yet** we sense being **cast off** temporarily.
 2. **So why does He allow us to feel this way?** Sometimes to **show us hard things**. Sometimes to allow us to **reap what we sow**. Sometimes so we'd **cry out for restoration**.
- S. The enemy is no longer the invader **but** the one to be invaded.
- T. **Slide11 PRAYER FOR HELP** (11,12)
- U. **With God we shall do valiantly** (esv). *Through God we shall do valiantly.* (nkjv)
- V. Finally **prayer** turns *into affirmation*, **& the lonely venture into a partnership**.
1. He is confident that, **with God**, they will be **Victorious**.
 2. **For our part**, there will be **valiant deeds**; **for God's part**, there will be **His hand on our hand**, **and also His foot on the enemy**.
- W. **On whose strength do you rely on?** Only God can give victory.
1. We cannot find the victory in ourselves. We cannot be true successes without God's help. We have no hope unless God is willing to act on our behalf.

X. **Slide12** Sum'd up in **Emoji's** and **Clip Art**: **Frown** (1-3) It's really bad. **Flag** (4) but there's a flag to run to. **Heart** (5) I'm beloved. **Flags** (6-8) God is sov over all nations. **Concern** (9,10) but who? **Prayer** (11,12) for help. I won't rely on _____ but *God, He will do it!*

Y. Keywords: deliverance, fear, God, holiness, prayer, love, banner.