

I Got Your Back



Day 1

Sermon Sentence: We can do more together, than we can do alone.

Exodus 17:8-9

The land that God has promised to the Israelites as an inheritance is not uninhabited and neither are the lands surrounding it. The Israelites are encountering the first resistance as they move through this foreign land. Amalek is a descendant of Esau and the Lord said that each would be a nation but the older shall serve the younger. (Genesis 25:23) This prophecy is coming to pass and the nation of the younger brother (Jacob) is moving aside the nation of the older brother (Esau) as the Lord always intended.

- Consider this from an Israelite point of view, they were going to have to fight this fight man to man. What kind of people were the Israelites at this point in the nation's history? Are they equipped and trained to be soldiers? Why is this another test of faith?
- God promised long ago that the nation descended from Esau will always serve the nation of the younger brother Jacob. Do you think that either side in this battle was aware of this pronouncement?
- What is the significance of Moses being up on the hill, arms up holding the staff of God? Who is he representing in this fight?
- How would you react in this situation? Would you be willing to fight, or once again desire to return to the safety of captivity in Egypt?

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Day 2

Sermon Sentence: We can do more together, than we can do alone.

Exodus 17:10-11

Joshua is one of the great examples of faith in the Bible. He seems to be one of those all in kind of guys! Here we see Joshua charge into battle with Israelites that probably have little or no training against what we can assume are soldiers in Amalek's army. Joshua is a man of great faith indeed as will be demonstrated over and over again in the Israelite story. Moses holds the staff of God high and the Israelites overcome their enemy but when he drops his hands they start to lose the battle. This is a very interesting symbolism.

- What do you think of the faith of Joshua?
- Joshua goes into a battle that by all rights he should lose, the odds are overwhelming. Why does Joshua not fear?
- Later there are great rewards for the faith that Joshua displays (as a matter of fact only two of the people over 20 that left Egypt received it) what is the lesson here for all Christians? This is a constant theme throughout the Bible. Can you think of other stories where great faith brings great rewards?
- How can we build faith like Joshua?

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Day 3

Sermon Sentence: We can do more together, than we can do alone.

Exodus 17:12-13

Imagine taking a staff that weighs at least 5 pounds or more and hold it over your head for an hour knowing that if you lower it for any period of time bad things will happen! Now imagine you are an 80 year old man and instead of an hour it is a day long battle and the bad thing that happens is your people die, so now you can understand the exhaustion that was overtaking Moses and the gravity of the situation. If Moses had to do this on his own more than likely the battle would have been lost but fortunately because of God's provision of other godly men to help him he was able to persevere and eventually win the battle for Israel.

- Why does it matter whether Moses has the staff raised or not?
- We see several examples of the staff of God being raised up and looked too in the Bible at various times during the story of the Israelites. Why? What is the lesson for the Israelites?
- As Christians often we find ourselves in spiritual struggles with seemingly insurmountable odds. What lessons can be taken from this overall story of the battle with Amalek and how can you apply them in your Christian walk?

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Day 4

Sermon Sentence: We can do more together, than we can do alone.

Exodus 17:14-16

The Israelites win the battle and the Lord makes a pronouncement for all time that He will be forever set against Amalekites. This is recorded and an altar built at the location. Later in the book of first Samuel a command is issued once again to destroy this people entirely. (1 Samuel 15:2-3) However, Saul lied in his announcement that he accomplished this as we see later they appear again and capture David and his men. The Jewish people vary in their idea as to the current state of the Amalekites and because the order of God was never fully followed some believe that they still exist today. Some say they are found among people that are forever set against God's people yet others believe that they are the enemy within more of a spiritual battle of the Jewish people.

- Why did God want to ensure that Joshua heard this pronouncement against the Amalekites?
- Jews still consider themselves to be against the Amalekites because of this pronouncement from God. Do you think they still exist in the world today or is just a spiritual battle that the Israelites still face?
- God gave many such decrees against entire nations in that they should be wiped out entirely. As with most things commanded of us, we did not fully do what the Lord commanded. What is the effect that can still be seen in the world today because of these failures?

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Day 5

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Life Application:

2 Thessalonians 3:3

Isaiah 41:10

Psalm 46:1

Psalm 91:1-3

2 Timothy 4:18

→ Ready or not the battles coming

- ◆ Many times Satan will come at us when we feel defenseless.

→ They were up against superior Military forces

- ◆ When we see the battles that Satan brings our way we can feel overwhelmed.

→ Find your place in the battle (doesn't mean you will always be in the exact same place for every battle)

- ◆ Serve in different roles in the spiritual battle.
 - Sometimes we serve others. (holding others up)
 - Sometimes we are the prayer warriors.
 - Sometimes we are the leader in the fight.

→ The victory doesn't depend on us, but we have to put forth the effort

- ◆ There was no power in Moses holding up His hands, the staff represented God's presence among the people, and when we lift God up in our lives we can be victorious in any battle
- ◆ We have to realize that we can't do it alone, that our victory only comes from God

- The Christian walk is all about spiritual warfare! We need faith like Joshua to help us know that God has our back. Think of some ways that you can increase your faith and learn to keep you eyes turned to God during these battles.
- The battle cannot be won alone. We need God and need each other! This is why Christians are said to be in the "body" of Christ. Each person serves a role within that spiritual body. How can you identify your role as well as support and strengthen the roles of others?