

Hold The Line

Ephesians
6:10-12



It was a small hill, but an important hill

- On a small hill called Golgotha near Jerusalem over 2,000 years ago a tremendous battle took place that directly effects the life of every person
- All the forces of evil directly attacking a single, solitary person nailed to a cross that was not his own, it was mine and yours
- He had the authority and power to come off that cross and mount an offense against these evil forces

It was a small hill, but an important hill

- **Matthew 26:52-54 NIV** 52 “Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. 53 Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”

It was a small hill, but an important hill

- His strength was not His own, but what the Father had promised Him and given Him
- He did not attack, but “held the line” and completed His Heavenly Father’s plan to redeem His very good creation that has been infected by sin
- We now have the great possibility to be redeemed through this act of Jesus
- Redeemed – to be brought back into God’s very good

It was a small hill, but an important hill

- But then we often forget we are still in the conflict between good and evil
- We just changed sides in the war
- **John 18:36 NIV** Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

It was a small hill, but an important hill

- **John 17:14-18 NIV**, “14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.”.

It was a small hill, but an important hill

- Hear Jesus say to you this morning
 - You are not of the world any longer
 - Your Heavenly Father provides protection from the evil one
 - I have sent you into battle in my name to stand
- **Jude 3**, “contend (*hold the line*) for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God’s holy people.

Scriptures

- **Ephesians 6:10-12 NIV**, “10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 *(To do this you must)* Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

How do you think about traitors to America?

- This is how Satan views true Christians
- You have defected from his army and enlisted into the army of God, and he hates you with an intense and lustful hate
- You demonstrate God's authority, power and love and Satan does not have a good answer for this

How do you think about traitors to America?

- Thus, he will begin to aggressively attempt to purge from you all God has blessed you with except your salvation
- You now have become the battlefield

We must know and understand our true enemy

- Sun Tzu (6th century BC) was a Chinese general, military strategist, and philosopher who lived in the Eastern Zhou period of ancient China
- Sun Tzu is traditionally credited as the author of “The Art of War”, a widely influential work of military strategy

We must know and understand our true enemy

- All warfare is based on deception (*especially spiritual battle*). Hence, when we are able to attack, we must seem unable; when using our forces, we must appear inactive; when we are near, we must make the enemy believe we are far away; when far away, we must make him believe we are near.

We must know and understand our true enemy

- It is said that if you know your enemies and know yourself, you will not be imperiled in a hundred battles; if you do not know your enemies but do know yourself, you will win one and lose one; if you do not know your enemies nor yourself, you will be imperiled in every single battle.

We must know and understand our true enemy

- **Verse 12** tells us our true struggle is not against flesh and blood
- It is against forces whose authority and power far exceeding anything we can muster up consistently
- They are called, “the devil’s schemes”
 - **AMP**, “all the schemes and the strategies and the deceits of the devil (*or those who report to him*)”

We must know and understand our true enemy

- Peace can control our hearts when we see the influence behind the one screaming at you, trying to stand in your way, the one attacking your character, or whatever evil comes your way
- When we understand it is not the “flesh and blood” we are fighting but the evil influence pushing the person and the conflict within ourselves to respond
- Like the “Wizard of Oz”, look behind the curtain

We must know and understand our true enemy

- Our Lord Jesus is our example here
 - Satan's entire attention was to get Jesus to miss Calvary, at the time He was to be there with schemes, strategies, and deceits
 - Imagine Jesus growing up in a small town with everyone looking down upon Him
 - When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness all three of these were present

We must know and understand our true enemy

- Our Lord Jesus is our example here
 - The constant rejections and overt hostility by the religious leaders
 - Even Peter when He would have denied Jesus going to Jerusalem

We must know and understand our true enemy

- Our Lord Jesus is our example here
 - **Matthew 16:21-23 NIV** 21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

We must know and understand our true enemy

- Our Lord Jesus is our example here
 - **Matthew 16:21-23 NIV** 22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”
 - 23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan (*under the influence of*)! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

We must know and understand our true enemy

- If Satan could not control Jesus, then he will attempt to stop the spread of His influence
 - Disciples desiring to rule and not serve
 - Peter's denial of Jesus three times
 - All the disciples running and hiding when Jesus was arrested
 - Not a one disciple going to the tomb on the third day until the women returned

We must know and understand our true enemy

- Jesus stood firm, he held-the-line and completed the work His Heavenly Father sent Him to complete
- How do we apply this?
 - With Satan it is all about deception (Adam/Eve in garden, it has not changed)
 - Within us Satan sends fear, arrogance, or pride getting our eyes on us alone or the event in front of us

Since the weapons used against us are not of this world, we must recognize neither are our spiritual weapons

- **John 14:18 NIV**, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”
 - The only thing orphans had in that society was themselves
 - They had no authority, no one to speak for them, no one to empower them, no protection

Since the weapons used against us are not of this world, we must recognize neither are our spiritual weapons

- **John 14:18 NIV**, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”
 - Often wound up in slavery all their lives just so they could exist
 - Jesus comforted His disciples with this promise, “I will come (*return*) to you.”

Since the weapons used against us are not of this world, we must recognize neither are our spiritual weapons

- While the disciples walked with Jesus, all the evil thrown at them was handled by Jesus
 - A storm blew up, Jesus calmed it
 - The crowd trying to make Jesus king, Jesus went away with His disciples
 - The crowd picked up stones to stone Jesus and His disciples, He just walk them right past them

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- While the disciples walked with Jesus, all the evil thrown at them was handled by Jesus
 - The Pharisees attacking Jesus through His disciples, Jesus answered them
 - Jesus is what kept them safe during all the spiritual warfare when they could not

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- It has not changed this side of Calvary
- **Matthew 28:18 NIV**, Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”
- Paul is telling us the weapon we need to be successful in our spiritual battles is within us but not of us (*in world not of world*) called the Holy Spirit

Since the weapons used against us are not of this world, we must recognize neither are our spiritual weapons

- His primary purpose is to lead us to all truth and walk through the truth with us
 - The truth about Jesus and ourselves
 - The truth about what we have been given and what is available to us
 - To provide power and confidence in God's promises

Since the weapons used against us are not of this world, we must recognize neither are our spiritual weapons

- We must be “strong in the Lord and in his mighty power”
 - We must put on (*accept as ours*) the full armor God has provided to us
 - **AMP**, “His precepts are like the splendid armor of a heavily-armed soldier.”

Since the weapons used against us are not of this world, we must recognize neither are our spiritual weapons

- We must be “strong in the Lord and in his mighty power”
 - Precept - a general rule intended to regulate (*govern*) our behavior or thought
 - To be used in making godly decisions and controlling our desires and passions, looking through godly eyes
 - In other words, be more like Jesus

We can have confidence to be able to stand in the days of evil

- Did you notice why we are to be confident in the Lord and put on the armor He has given us?
 - So we can go out and defeat the enemy?
 - So we can avoid evil and hard times?
 - So we can be successful as the world defines success?

We can have confidence to be able to stand in the days of evil

- **Vs. 11**, “so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes (or the evil that will come against you)”
 - “You can” is not a wishy-washy term in Greek but more like “you will be more than able”

We can have confidence to be able to stand in the days of evil

- Your confidence is not in yourself but in the character, power, and authority of Jesus Christ
 - Confidence in who Jesus is and what He has already provided
 - Confidence in the presence of the Holy Spirit walking beside you

We can have confidence to be able to stand in the days of evil

- Your confidence is not in yourself but in the character, power, and authority of Jesus Christ
 - Confidence our Lord already knows our needs and has a plan to provide them
 - Confidence in the Word of God

We can have confidence to be able to stand in the days of evil

- We are to stand (*hold the line*) until reinforcements come using all the tools and protections already provided to us by Jesus

Please notice “evil days” will come to you physically, mentally, and spiritually with blows that feel like from a hammer

- We can be like Paul in **2nd Corinthians 4:8-9 NIV**, “8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.”
- How?

Please notice “evil days” will come to you physically, mentally, and spiritually with blows that feel like from a hammer

- Paul knew what the Psalmist knew
 - **Psalms 121:1 NIV**, “1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? 2 My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.”

Please notice “evil days” will come to you physically, mentally, and spiritually with blows that feel like from a hammer

- Paul knew what the Prophets knew
 - **Isaiah 41:10 AMP**, ‘Do not fear [anything], for I am with you; Do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, be assured I will help you; I will certainly take hold of you with My righteous right hand [a hand of justice, of power, of victory, of salvation].’

Please notice “evil days” will come to you physically, mentally, and spiritually with blows that feel like from a hammer

- Do not believe the enemy’s schemes, strategies, and deceptions – they are lies, all lies
- Your circumstances may not change, but your vision, your attitude will change allowing you to stand with power and strength, to the glory of our Heavenly Father
- All praise, glory and honor goes to Him, and we all say this morning, “Amen”

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