

sermon summary

January 12, 2020 - Rick Myatt



THE LESSON OF THE WATER CUP

38th in the Series on Ephesians called, "Messages to the Misfits" - Topic: Spiritual Warfare

Passage: Ephesians 6:10-20

This past Sunday, Rick gave his final sermon on spiritual warfare. It was an impassioned plea for us to pay attention to this deadly but invisible war raging all around us.

Here's a dynamite excerpt:

"Smelling salt is basically ammonia. One whiff of that up my nose instantly jolted me back to full consciousness. I just remember feeling like I was drifting off to sleep, then suddenly it felt like someone jabbed a knife up into my brain. I woke up real fast. We need a dose of ammonia like that, something to jerk us into full consciousness of what is happening around us. We need to wake up, because this battle is raging and it is violent. If we are not aware of it, we are going to become casualties of the battle. We need our spiritual senses on full alert, completely engaged so that we see what is going on."

Rick went over the main things that can happen when we are unaware of the war.

If we don't recognize the danger, we may miss what life is really about. Rick said, "That means that history, including our part in it, is about much more than just how pleasant my term in this world is. It is about something far greater and more eternal." He said we want to be on the "right side of history" (a term which ironically is often used by the folks who say there is no absolute right and wrong), meaning we don't want to go down in history in infamy, but that God is on the actual right side of history - and we'd better be on it.

If we don't recognize the danger, we could become a casualty. This doesn't just mean a casualty of faith. The enemy uses evil people to actually destroy people. But when we are aware of the scams the enemy tries to perpetrate on us, we won't fall for them.

If we don't recognize the danger, we might end up dealing with life using the world's weapons (power, force, violence, manipulation, dishonesty, anger) instead of God's spiritual weapons (prayer, truth, righteousness, grace, peace, humility and love: Satan cannot stand against these weapons). But all too often, Christians slip and resort to the world's weapons - and *that* is where Christianity gets a bad name.

Rick also told us to be mindful of the fact that even if Satan doesn't directly cause a catastrophe, the satanic realm is usually pleased to use it anyway, in its attacks on us mortals (as in the illustration of the spilled ice water on his lap). We can expect the enemy's participation in just about every calamity.

Rick gave us some great weapons for our arsenals:

1. See the world through the lens of spiritual war, instead of the lens of our own pleasures and likes, looking for God's motives and being always aware of the enemy's agendas.
2. Be strong in the Lord. "We need to believe using His weapons is best... If we trust Him, He will aid us in ways we may not even notice." Stand firm. *Always* bless the name of the Lord. Remember why God is called, "The *Almighty*." He longs for us to tap into that infinite power. Remember that the victory is not in us getting the outcome or the circumstance we want, *but in us standing*, whatever the circumstance may be.
3. Live in the moment. Don't worry about tomorrow ("each day has enough trouble of its own"), and don't dwell in the past regrettable events. Focus on today and what God has for you to do, and let God sort out the rest.

Final thought to retain:

"Do you want to be powerful? Be powerful the way Jesus was powerful. Use the unstoppable weapons God has given you. Use prayer, love, peace, grace. Jesus used those weapons to change the entire destiny of the human race!"

Verse References

Passage: Ephesians 6:10-20 - Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against ^[a]flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, ¹⁵and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; ¹⁶^[b]in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸^[c]With all prayer and petition ^[d]pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, ^[e]be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, ¹⁹and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in ^[f]chains; that ^[g]in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

What Happens When We Don't Wake Up to the War? - 2 Corinthians 10:4 – ...for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

Application - James 4:7 - Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.