

It's A War... Know Your Enemy!

A story that teaches us a huge lesson... Joshua 1:1-9

Ephesians 6:10-20

The "Christian life" is a war with a known enemy! Ephesians 6:11-12

- "The true Christian described in Ephesians 1-3 who lives the faithful life described in 4:1-6:9 can be sure that he will be involved in the spiritual warfare described in 6:10-20. The faithful Christian life is a battle; it is warfare on a grand scale-because when God begins to bless, Satan begins to attack."
John MacArthur, The New Testament Commentary Ephesians

Our struggle...

- The word translated "struggle" is used of hand to hand combat and wrestling.
 - In ancient Rome, many of the matches were literally a life and death struggle.
- We are reminded of that struggle in Scripture. I Peter 5:8
- Our enemy is Satan...
 - Created as an angel but rebelled against God. Isaiah 14:12-17
 - Called Satan, (adversary), the devil, (slanderer).
 - Is identified as this world system's ruler. John 16:11; Eph. 2:2; I John 5:19
 - Has great power but not all powerful like God!
- Satan has an evil army of demons, fallen angels that assist him.
 - They appear to be in various ranks and positions.

His schemes...

- The word translated "schemes" is methodia, from which we get methods.
- This word often referred to a wild animal stalking it's prey, using craftiness.
- Satan always is at work to...
 - Oppose God's work. Zechariah 3:1
 - Pervert God's Word. Matthew 4:6
 - Hinder God's servant. I Thessalonians 2:18
 - Hinder the Gospel. II Corinthians 4:4
- Satan has an evil plan for every believer and for the Church as he works through...
 - Doubt- not living by faith, trusting God.
 - Discouragement- focusing on circumstances, not God.
 - Distraction- getting sidetracked and caught up in ourselves.
 - Deception- being led astray by wrong teaching and people.
 - Dissension- rebelling against God's ordained authority.
 - Disunity and division- creating strife and factions in the Body of Christ.
- Satan cannot be overcome on our own, but can be God's way!
James 4:7; I Peter 5:8-9

Next week... The Battle Is The Lord's!