

Surviving the Wilderness Part 2
Surviving the Enemies Attack - II Samuel 5: 17-25

On Dec.7, 1941 the Japanese launched a surprise attack on the American military base at Pearl Harbor.

- The attack took the lives of over 2,300 US servicemen.
- Most of the fleet of aircraft were damaged or destroyed.
- Eight battleships, 3 destroyers, and 3 cruisers were taken out of action.
- Two battleships, Oklahoma and Arizona, were completely destroyed.

The success of the attack was due in large part to **the element of surprise**

- American forces **weren't prepared** for the attack.
- We learned greatly from the **surprise attack** on that fateful morning.

Many Christians have been **attacked and defeated** spiritually by the surprise of Satan

- Our Christian lives are played out on a spiritual battlefield.
- I'm thankful for those **times of rest**,
- But it seems that life consists of **one battle after another**.

Our text reveals one battle in the life of **David**.

- There are valuable lessons that we can learn about **preparation and success** in the battle.
- Let's consider: **Surviving the Enemies Attack**.

I. The Invasion of the Enemy (17-18) – Here once again, like so many times before, **the people of God** are confronted by the Philistines.

- They were a constant threat to the people's joy and well being.

In the Philistines we see a picture of the world system, evil guided by Satan that stands as a threat to the redeemed.

- **We have an adversary** who desires to undermine and rob our joy and well being.
- **He cannot** take our soul;
- **He cannot** change what Christ has done for us,
- **But he can** create havoc and cause disruptions in our lives.

To overcome we need to understand who the enemy is and how he operates

Satan's attack is illustrated in the Philistines. **Notice:**

- A. Their Timing 17** - This was a joyful and victorious time in the life of David.
- The hardship of years on the run was over.
 - He had been anointed king seven years earlier, but
 - those years were filled with battle and discouragement.
 - It is now, after the death of Saul, that he is anointed again, king of all Israel.
 - God's plan for David as king was fulfilled.

No sooner had he assumed the throne that the Philistines attacked.

- They wasted no time, wanting to surprise David **before he had time to build up his defenses.**

The enemy likes to attack when we least expect it

- Many times the joy of the mountain top is cut short due to attack.
- He likes to come while we are enjoying God's blessings.
- We cannot assume that just because all is well that we are immune from confrontation.
- We must be vigilant at all times.
- **It is easy to let down our guard when life is good.**

B. Their Tenacity (17) – David wasn't just dealing with a few renegades or a small detachment; he was **faced with all** the Philistines.

- They had come with one goal in mind, **overthrowing** the new king.
- **They would stop at nothing to accomplish their goal**, bringing every man.

We must be aware that we face a determined adversary

- **He is dangerous**, like a dog that has been wounded.
- He knows that he has been **eternally defeated**.
- Jesus fully conquered Satan at Calvary.
- He has been mortally wounded, yet
- He desires to hurt the Lord through our defeat in the short time he has left.

We must never underestimate the power of the enemy

- **He's not concerned** with your well being;
- **He doesn't care** about your home, your health, or your family.
- **He is ruthless** and will do whatever he can to defeat us.
- This journey we're on isn't a walk in the park;
- **it is a battle**, lives hang in the balance!

C. Their Tactics (18) – They spread themselves in the valley.

- This was a **move of intimidation**.
- They wanted to **create fear** in the heart of David.
- They wanted him to **focus on their numbers** rather than his own plans for battle.

Satan likes to use fear tactics

- He likes us to focus on **our fears and problems** instead of the Lord.
- Let me remind you that **he is a defeated foe!**
- **Keep your focus on Jesus**; look to Him and never let down your guard.
- Stand your ground in the **face of adversity** through the power of God.

Once you've gained the victory, **remain vigilant because he will come again**. Satan is seeking any and every opportunity to attack.

II. The Reaction of David (19-23) – Things looked difficult for the new king. The joy of his kingdom had been interrupted by the enemy.

- He hadn't asked for it, but trouble came to him.
- **We don't have to seek trouble; it will find us!**
- The key to overcoming life's battles is found within our reaction
- ***David's reaction resulted in victory.***

These verses teach great truth in how our response can and will bring victory. Notice:

A. David's Priority (19) – He enquired of the Lord; David prayed!

- The very **1st thing** he did was **seek God's help**.
- **He didn't** call for troops to assemble, seek a compromise, or plan an exit strategy in case things got bad, **he prayed**.

- He had been in this position before and God had provided, yet **he enquired of God.**

Our first priority when the enemy attacks ought to be prayer.

- He knows the battle we face, the strength we need, and how it will all work out.
- When trouble comes **seek God! Under pressure, SEEK GOD!!!!**
- Don't start trying to figure out how to get out of the problem/solve it.
- Don't start trying to rally the troops.
- And by all means don't accept defeat.
- **Seek the Lord in every situation.**

Ps.25:5 – Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. **Seek God and wait upon Him!**

B. David's Obedience (20-21) – After enquiring of Him, the Lord instructed David to go up against the enemy.

- **He promised** to deliver them into David's hand.
- **David wasted no time.**
- He didn't wait a few days, argue with God, or seek another opinion.
- **He did as God commanded.**

God's strength and grace is given to those who are obedient.

- Have you ever prayed and not liked the response from God?
- Has He ever shown you something in His Word that you didn't like?
- **We can't debate with the Lord; He knows best.**
- Once we've been taught His way,
- we are obligated to follow.

David **didn't** just defeat the Philistines; he also **destroyed** their idols, V.21.

- There are some things that we know are right.
- God's ways are always right. **Be obedient!**

C. David's Dependence (22-23) – After the initial defeat, the Philistines came again!

- **Remember the enemy will always return.**
- We must be **cautious** in times like these.

- David had secured a victory, but **he didn't assume** that victory was guaranteed.
- He had been in similar situations, but **he hadn't forgotten his need for God.**

The battle isn't ours; it belongs to God

- ***Many Christians*** have gotten in trouble by trying to handle problems on their own.
- You may have been in that situation before, but **always depend on God.**

Israel suffered defeat on several occasions because they entered a battle with pride instead of God.

- There are times the Lord wants us to stand still and let Him work.
- He may be ready to fight the battle for us.

III. The Provision of God (23-25) – There would've likely been defeat if David had gotten ahead of God.

- **His reaction brought God's provision.**

A. His Guidance (23) – On the 2nd occasion, God didn't want him to confront the enemy. He wanted to display His mighty power. God led them to a bunch of mulberry trees.

David, a valiant man, would've probably desired to meet the enemy head on, yet he followed God.

- **Don't** get bogged down trying to figure God out, just **follow His lead.**
- **God's will won't lead you where His grace can't keep you.**
- Being in God's will is always the safest place to be.

Ps.48:14 – For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.

B. His Presence (24) – David was instructed to wait until he heard the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees.

- The Lord's presence **would be with him** and **go before him!**

Aren't you glad that we don't have to fight our battles alone?

- We can find rest, assurance, and victory in the presence of God.

When the ***presence & power*** of God is on our side **the enemy has to flee**

I don't know what may come today or what I'll face tomorrow, but I know **He will be there with me each step of the way!**

- **God will be there** in your fiery furnace,
- Your lion's den,
- Even in your prison.

C. His Deliverance (25) – David followed God and He brought the victory. He delivered David and defeated the enemy.

There have been times when ***I felt defeat was imminent***, but **God stepped in on my behalf!**

- A battle may be raging in your life today, but take courage in the Lord.
- He is able to fight our battles and deliver us from harm.

Satan may cause you heartache and pain -

- But he can't destroy those who belong to God.
- We serve One who can make a highway in the midst of the sea.
- He can cause great and mighty walls to crumble.
- He can bring down the giants in our lives.
- **We have His power to deliver us.**

Ps.34:7 – The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

CLOSE: **When the battle rages, just listen for the sound in the mulberry trees!**

- **Life is tough**, but God is bigger than whatever we face.
- We'll all have battles to fight, but we do not stand alone.
- Maybe you need to come and seek the Lord's guidance in your life **to survive the enemies attack**.

- Maybe you have never trusted Christ in salvation.
- You don't know the joy of Christ fighting your battles.
- **Why not come and seek the Lord** in salvation so that you too can enjoy His mighty power in your life as well?

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 - A. **Their Timing (17)**
 - B. **Their Tenacity (17)**
 - C. **Their Tactics (18)**
- II. **The Reaction of David (19-23)**
 - A. **David's Priority (19) – David prayed!**
 - B. **David's Obedience (20-21) – The Lord instructed David to go up against the enemy.**
 - C. **David's Dependence (22-23) – After the initial defeat, the Philistines came again!**
- III. **The Provision of God (23-25)**
 - A. **His Guidance (23) – On the **2nd occasion**, God didn't want him to confront the enemy.**
 - B. **His Presence (24) – David was instructed to wait until he heard the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees.**
 - C. **His Deliverance (25) – David followed God and He brought the victory.**

Close: *****When the battle rages, just listen for the sound in the mulberry trees!**

2 Samuel 5:17-25 – CEV - David Fights the Philistines

¹⁷ The Philistines heard that David was now king of Israel, and they came into the hill country to try and capture him. But David found out and went into his fortress. ¹⁸ So the Philistines camped in Rephaim Valley.

¹⁹ David asked the Lord, “Should I attack the Philistines? Will you let me win?”

The Lord told David, “Attack! I will let you win.”

²⁰ David attacked the Philistines and defeated them. Then he said, “I watched the Lord break through my enemies like a mighty flood.” So he named the place “The Lord Broke Through.” ²¹ David and his troops also carried away the idols that the Philistines had left behind.

²² Sometime later, the Philistines came back into the hill country and camped in Rephaim Valley. ²³ David asked the Lord what he should do, and the Lord answered:

Don’t attack them from the front. Circle around behind and attack from among the balsam trees. ²⁴ Wait until you hear a sound like troops marching through the tops of the trees. Then attack quickly! That sound will mean I have marched out ahead of you to fight the Philistine army.

²⁵ David obeyed the Lord and defeated the Philistines. He even chased them all the way from Geba to the entrance to Gezer.