

Winning Our Battles Against Sin:

Intro:

I. Recall the warning that Moses Gave to Israel before the crossed over into Canaan:

Numbers 33:50-56

A. Even before crossing over, they had already lost a few battles to keep themselves pure and holy: *Num. 25:1-3 (Joined themselves to Baal, costing 24,000 their lives)*

B. Moses exhorted the people to take this very seriously: No half hearted measures (*Drive, destroy, demolish v52*)

C. If they failed, they would always have a source of trouble in their lives, (v55); one that would cause them both physical and spiritual trouble:

II. Taking Paul's exhortation to learn from Israel, consider what an excellent analogy this is for removing sin from our lives:

A. We are told that as Disciples, we are entering a battle with spiritual forces (*Eph. 6:11-13*)

B. The words of Moses still ring true: We must strive to drive sin out of our lives, destroying the images we've set up, demolishing the high places...

C. Sin that is left will always be a prick in our eyes... causing of spiritual woe, and physical consequences

III. Our goal should be to examine Biblical principles for winning the daily battles that we must wage against sin:

I. First Things First: Decide to DO Something

a. While required, acknowledging that there is sin in a life is not the same as taking action! (*Illus. of Neville Chamberlain (Israel obviously knew the nations there had to be dealt with! But for various reasons left numerous nations!)*)

i. Scripture is filled with people who were able to acknowledge that there was a problem--some were even stirred in spirit, but ultimately did nothing about it:

1. Esau foolishly squandered his birthright (*Gen. 25:32-34*) and would later grieve over his actions (*Gen. 27:38*)

a. Despite acknowledgement and grief, he did nothing but let the sin fester in his life (*Heb. 12:16-17*)

2. King Saul was capable of seeing sin in his life as well: (*1 Sam. 15:24-30*)
 - a. On multiple occasions he would acknowledge he was in the wrong in his pursuit of David (*1 Sam. 19:6 contrasted with 20:32-33, 1 Sam. 24:16-20 contrasted with ch. 26*)
 - b. Saul would never take the next step and pursue action that would get the sin out, and restore his relationship with God
3. Numerous other misc. examples:
 - a. Cain... warned in advance still murders able
 - b. Herod the tetrach... Locked John in prison: (*Luke 3:19-20*)
 - c. King Agrippa believed the prophets: (*Acts 26:27*)
 - d. The Mob in (*Acts 7:51-54*)
- b. Whenever we find sin in our lives there is but one proper attitude:
 - i. An Attitude of Action! (*Acts 2:37*)
 1. When any sin stands between us and God, we need to drive it out, destroy it, demolish it-- however is necessary!

2. We Have to Ask for Help:

- a. If we were left to fight these battles on our own, we would face an impossible task: Have you sized up the enemy lately? Have you counted the cost?
 - i. Peter warned the Disciples in his letter that the devil was a predator: (*1 Pet. 5:8*)
 1. Not a friendly animal, not one that can be tamed, there is only one thing on its mind: finding something to kill!
 2. Its never filled: It is always prowling about
 - ii. John saw Satan depicted as a terrible beast: (*Rev. 12:3-4*)
 1. Does the devil have compassion? Satan is a heartless, cold blooded killer, waiting for a chance to bring harm to the weak and defenseless
 - iii. The book of Job describes him as having free course to roam: (*Job 1:7*)
 1. Do you feel confident to face this threat on your own?
- b. If we rely on ourselves for the strength to win these battles, we will come out looking like the seven sons of Sceva! (*Acts 19*)
 - i. Who do we think our strength comes from? *Phil. 4:13*

- ii. What is it that enables us to resist? *James 4:7-8*
- iii. When we successfully escape traps and snares, who provided that way? (*1 Cor. 10:13*)
 - i. Any action we take that leads to victory will only do so because God is with us, He is providing strength:

3. Take the Time to Plan: (*However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results* -Winston Churchill

- a. How did Jesus, our perfect example, overcome temptation?
 - i. Matt. 4: Repeatedly rebuffed Satan with what was written in God's Word
 - ii. Luke 22: Jesus was able to follow the Father's will because of intense prayer during times of duress:
 - i. We must be buried deep within God's word if we are to resist (*Ps. 119:9-11*)
- b. Don't wait until the battle is on your doorstep before you've decided what to do!
(Don't give the devil a heads up *Eph. 4:26-27*)
 - i. Job made a covenant well in advance: *Job 31:1*
 - ii. Daniel's action was decided long before the temptation came: *Daniel 1:8*
 - iii. Joshua let it be known that they had made their decision: *Josh. 24:15*
- c. See it through to completion:

Conclusion:

- Each of are well acquainted with our own personal struggles and areas of weakness
- We've been given the tools and strength needed to drive them out of our lives, but are we taking advantage of them?
- Let exhort and encourage each other to wage successful battles against any sin that still finds a home in our lives.