

GO TO THE SOURCE!

SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 17

INTRO//

- What's up Faith Students! Welcome to the best night of the week, so glad each and every one of you are here!
- Tonight we're continuing our series called: NameDrop.
 - In this series we're studying the names of God, because they're so much more than a name!
 - God's names reveal His character, His nature, who He is !

Week 1: YHWH- constant, always has and always will be (God's actual name)

-But all throughout Bible, especially OT, Israel would give/call God names based on things He's done

Week 2: Jehovah Shammah (the Lord is there)

-Last week we talked about how God is always there, He is always present

TRANSITION//

-And there's very real times we doubt if God is with us, we all reflected on those moments we've had last week

-We'll see in a moment a time the Israelites doubted if God was with them

-But other times it's not so much that we doubt God is present, we just doubt he's active

-Like we may trust and believe God is there, like He's clocked in to work, but we wonder if He's *actually* working?

-Tonight we'll read a story where Israel was unsure that God was with them and helping them, and we'll see He was doing so much more than they understood or expected.

-Tonight the name of God we are studying is **Jehovah Nissi (The Lord is my banner)**

CONTEXT//

-And Israel had a similar moment in Exodus (well really several moments) where they are mad at God for bringing them out of slavery. They were enslaved in Egypt, God brought them out, and while they were in the wilderness before they went in the promise land, in this in between time, they questioned was God was doing

-Things were better in Egypt

-We weren't thirsty in Egypt

-We weren't hungry in Egypt

-They continually complain and whine about their situation, they begin to wonder why God + Moses brought them out of what seemed good (slavery in Egypt)

-As they do this Moses calls out to God and asks for help

Exodus 17:4

Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What should I do with these people? They are ready to stone me!"

APPLICATION//

-Who knows what Moses was thinking/feeling in the moment

- Maybe he too was questioning if God was there/working
- Regardless He calls out to God + asks for help**
- When faced with a problem he went to prayer**

-Just like we talked about last week, would we hold on to facts, the truth + word of God > our feelings!

-God answers (**Exodus 17:5-6**)

The Lord said to Moses, "Walk out in front of the people. Take your staff, the one you used when you struck the water of the Nile, and call some of the elders of Israel to join you. I will stand before you on the rock at Mount Sinai. Strike the rock, and water will come gushing out. Then the people will be able to drink." So Moses struck the rock as he was told, and water gushed out as the elders looked on."

-God provided! God showed up in an incredible way

- Met their needs

- Despite their crying/whining + blaming God, God still provided!

1//GOD'S GRACE MEETS US WHERE WE ARE

-God took care of the Israelites needs in that moment! He provided for what they cried for (even if their heart wasn't in the right place)

-What a picture of God's grace! God still cared for them enough to give them water even when they were complaining and questioning Him

-God still met their needs even when they were angry

- How good God is!

ILLUSTRATION//

Tell a funny story/time you and a sibling/friend got in a fight/argument

- You don't want to do anything nice!

- Sometimes parents made us apologize against our will!

-But in this moment, even though God would've been completely justified in letting Israel thirst in the wilderness for complaining about Him bringing them out of slavery, He extended grace and met their need.

-That's the grace of God

- Gospel

-But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)**

-There may be times and moments when you feel God isn't working/active, but trust He with you and working/moving and has grace to provide even when we doubt Him

TRANSITION//

-But God isn't just with us and working now, in the present

-He's doing more!

-After this we see in verse 8 Israel is attacked by the Amalekites (they didn't see it coming, unprovoked)

-Again remember they're just coming out of slavery, kinda getting used to being on their own

-Unprepared, not equipped for this battle

-Again what is Moses' response? PRAYER

-“As long as Moses held up the staff in his hand, the Israelites had the advantage. But whenever he dropped his hand, the Amalekites gained the advantage.” **Exodus 17:11**

OBSERVATION//

-This was a posture of prayer

-Hands raised + holding God's staff

-Surrendering control + submitting to God

-Trusting this battle was His!

-They were winning when He was praising!

-We don't wrestle against flesh + blood!

-Prayer is how we fight against the enemy

-Takes our focus off our fight and puts it on the Father

-Gets out of the way and lets Him do what only He can do!

-Again would our response in trials and difficult seasons be seeking God! When we wonder if He is with us and working, go to Him! See for yourself!

-Moses gets tired as He lifts his hands

-“Moses' arms soon became so tired he could no longer hold them up. So Aaron and Hur found a stone for him to sit on. Then they stood on each side of Moses, holding up his hands. So his hands held steady until sunset. As a result, Joshua overwhelmed the army of Amalek in battle.” **Exodus 17:12-13**

I would encourage getting students involved and illustrate this scene

-Moses had others lift up his hands so he could continue to be in a posture of prayer and Israel could be victorious!

-It's so crucial we have people in our life that encourage our faith!

-Intercede when we're weak

-Cover us in prayer and build up our walk with God

-Power of the church!

-Don't fight alone!

-Moses' arms were held up so Israel could've victorious, and they were!

-I want you to notice how they won the battle

-Didn't say Israel had a bigger or better army

-Didn't say Israel had a better strategy

-It all came down to a posture of prayer and ultimately was by the hand of God

-Again a sign of His grace!

-I find it interesting at the beginning of this chapter Israel wondered if God was even there

-By the end we see they win a battle they didn't even expect because of God

-In this we see not only does God's grace meet us where we are at but:

2//GOD'S VICTORY MEETS US WHERE WE ARE GOING

-Israel had no idea the battle was coming, Amalekites were attacking
-But God did and protected them, again, even when undeserved!
-God wasn't just with them and provided them water, He went before them and won the victory against the Amalekites!
-This is where we learn a new name for God in the end of this story:
-"Moses built an altar there and named it Yahweh-Nissi (which means "the Lord is my banner").
Exodus 17:15

-What does that mean? "The Lord is my banner"

CONTEXT//

-In that time in battle nations would have flags or banners at the front to be a place they could look and have hope, have their attention
-By saying the "Lord is my banner" Moses was declaring the Lord is our source of hope, the Lord is where we fix our attention, the Lord is our source of victory!
-Throughout this life, in battles, struggles and trials we can look to God for hope!
-We have victory over sin + death because of the cross!

-Colossians 2:13-15 "He (Jesus) disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross."

-God is our source!
-He gives hope to the hopeless! Need hope? Go to God!
-Need victory? Go to God!
-So just as they would look to a flag/banner, would we call on Jehovah Nissi, and look upon the one who has won it all! Who is victorious over everything!

ALTAR + RESPONSE//

1. If you are going through a battle/struggle, focus on God!
 - Get in His word
 - Get in His presence
 - Worship* get your attention on Him
2. Don't fight alone!
 - Get prayer from a leader
 - Pray in groups/small groups