

Evening Worship March 19, 2017

"Who is on the Lord's Side?"

Exodus 33:25-29

Moses had just finished spending forty days and forty nights up in the mountain, getting direction from God about how properly to worship Him! Too impatient to wait for Moses to come down, the people decided for themselves, (as directed by Aaron) the best way to worship God was by molding a golden calf. This was similar to how they had seen Egypt's gods and goddesses worshipped, and the party they would connect to this worship would be FUN!

When Moses, God's servant, suddenly appeared among them, if they were not dreadfully afraid, they should have been!

Moses in Exodus 33:26, shouted out the question, which is the same as the song we often sing –

... "Whoever is on the LORD'S side-- come to me." And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him. (Exodus 32:26 NKJ)

I. A call to commitment and conflict –

then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, "**Whoever is on the LORD'S side-- come to me.**" And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him.<sup>27</sup> And he said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: `Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.'"<sup>28</sup> So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day.<sup>29</sup> Then Moses said, "Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, that He may bestow on you a blessing this day, for every man has opposed his son and his brother." (Exodus 32:26-29 NKJ)

1. God and Christ call us to great love and commitment, and sometimes to hate and conflict –

A. We cannot truly come to God without great love for God - "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!"<sup>5</sup> "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. (Deuteronomy 6:4-5 NKJ)

B. We cannot truly come to Christ, without a comparable hatred even for those dearest to us -

"If anyone **comes to Me** and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple."<sup>27</sup> "And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. (Luke 14:26-27 NKJ)

C. God calls us to be different than those around us in an ungodly world, He calls us to distain their bad counsel –

**Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; (Psalm 1:1 NKJ)**

D. He calls us to a path, and a seeking of Himself and of heavenly things that will take us against the grain of this world –

**Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.<sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world.<sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. (1 John 2:15-17 NKJ)**

Our Bible leads us into opposition to those who believe in atheism, earth worship, evolution, abortion, false doctrine and false religion.

II. Those who are on the LORD's side MUST:

1. Be willing to stand and be counted for the LORD –

then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, "Whoever is on the LORD'S side-- come to me." And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him. (Exodus 32:26 NKJ)

- We must be willing to own our allegiance to God, publically, openly

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"For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it."<sup>36</sup> "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?<sup>37</sup> "Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?<sup>38</sup> "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." (Mark 8:35-38 NKJ)

2. We must be willing to fight for God, to stand up for His Name, even against our family and dearest friends –

And he said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: `Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.'" (Exodus 32:27 NKJ)

3. *We must be willing to be a minority and fight the majority for the LORD –*

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.<sup>14</sup> "Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Matthew 7:13-14 NKJ)

*Contra Mundum – Against the World, this statement was made famous in regard to Athanasius who stood against the world when it sided with the heretic Arius.*

4. *We must be obedient to the LORD's Commands, even when they are difficult –*

So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day. (Exodus 32:28 NKJ)

5. *We must consecrate ourselves to God because we are prone to sin –*

Then Moses said, "Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, that He may bestow on you a blessing this day, for every man has opposed his son and his brother." (Exodus 32:29 NKJ)

6. *We must use our swords -*

`Let every man put his sword on his side, ..." (Exodus 32:27 NKJ)

A. *Yet, our sword is the Word of God, the Bible –*

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; (Ephesians 6:17 NKJ)

III. *We should be encourage in our battle by the facts:*

1. *Our Sword is not our only equipment for the BATTLE –*

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.<sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.<sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.<sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.<sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,<sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation

of the gospel of peace;<sup>16</sup> above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.<sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;<sup>18</sup> praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--<sup>19</sup> and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,<sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. (Ephesians 6:10-20 NKJ)

2. *Nor is our battle against flesh and blood –Ephesians 6:12*

3. *When we are on the Lord's side we are well furnished for the fight, we are:*

A. *Strong in the LORD – Ephesians 6:10*

B. *The right armor and weapons are provided – Ephesians 6:13-20*

4. *Jesus is our Leader and Commander –*

Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, A leader and commander for the people. (Isaiah 55:4 NKJ)

5. *We also have angels (spiritual warriors) on our side –*

And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. (2 Kings 6:17 NKJ)

6. *God in His Word has already told us of our victory –*

And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.<sup>15</sup> Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.<sup>16</sup> And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.<sup>17</sup> Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,<sup>18</sup> "that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, free and slave, both small and great."<sup>19</sup> And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.<sup>20</sup> Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.<sup>21</sup> And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh. (Revelation 19:14-21 NKJ)