



Key Scripture: Exodus 17:8-16

Key Point: As followers of Jesus, we are called to different battles to fight for justice and compassion.

[Quotes, questions, and points that are bolded are suggested things to put in your presentation if you do a PowerPoint/Pro Presenter with your group.]

Hello, everyone. I'm glad you could join us this week. We are beginning a 3-week series called "Mirrored." We are going to take some time to look at attributes of God that are mirrored in us. God made us in His image which means He's placed some of His attributes in us. This series is going to take a deeper look at those attributes to guide us in having a stronger connection with our Savior.

Pray

[Author Note: I started with two stories about fighting. One was about doing a Goldberg spear to a kid. The other was a story of watching a fight happen at school. The whole point of these stories was to set the stage about how, as followers of Christ, we have a battle to fight. Using stories about fighting was a good way for our students to relate to the message of fighting for justice and compassion.]

Men love to battle for something. Women do, too. Men fight for the girl. Women fight to be captivating. Both attributes are found in our Creator. God is compassionate towards us. Because of that compassion, He fights for justice. Men, this is why you have an innate ability to fight or battle something. Think about it. Video games have fighting in them, sports are competitions of fighting for victory, and there's also literal fighting.

We often believe we need to sit back and do nothing. I'm not advocating just picking a fight with someone. What you fight for is justice, because that's what God fights for. Our God is a warrior. We read that in the Bible!

Exodus 15:3 (NLT)

"The Lord is a Warrior; Yahweh is His name!"

Do you know what the word warrior means? A warrior is a brave or experienced soldier or fighter. If that's the case, then God, as a warrior, is a brave and experienced soldier or fighter.

The truth is, God fights for the justice of those He's compassionate about. That's you and me. In the Old Testament, we get God confused with something He's not. It is often believed and debated that God was different than who He was in the New Testament simply because He engaged in wars. The problem with that is we also read in Scripture that God is the same today, yesterday, and tomorrow (**Hebrews 13:8**). So, He can't be a wrathful angry God over humanity one day and then on the next, decide to be forgiving and showing love to all. He could because He is God, but that would go against Himself as unchanging.

We often miss a key point as to why God engaged in those battles. He fought for His people. He only engaged when peace was on the line. He didn't fight because it was fun. He fought for the justice of those whose faith belonged to Him. Jesus Himself was a fighter. He came to Earth to save the lost and to fight against sin by going to the cross. It was a bloody and horrifying battle, but Jesus did it on our behalf. Don't tell me Jesus and God weren't fighters because Scripture makes it clear they were warriors who were compassionate towards humanity and had battles to fight. They fought for justice and peace. We all have battles to fight, too. We, too, are called to fight for justice and peace

I want to read some scripture about a battle between the Israelites and the Amalekites. The Amalekites were descendants of Amalek who was a grandson of Esau. Jacob was the swindler who stole the birthright of his brother Esau. The Amalekites were a fierce warrior tribe that lived in the region of the Dead Sea. They made their living by raiding on other settlements. They also killed for pleasure. One day, the Israelites entered the region where the Amalekites were posted. These warriors saw this as the perfect opportunity to kill and gain a profit. What the Amalekites didn't know was that they would encounter some trouble from the Israelites. The Israelites had a secret weapon like Pablo Sanchez from the Backyard Sport's games. [I displayed a picture of Pablo Sanchez so people who didn't know who he was from the sports series could see him.] God was

their secret weapon and would look out for them. This is how the story goes.

Exodus 17:8-16 (NLT)

8 While the people of Israel were still at Rephidim, the warriors of Amalek attacked them. 9 Moses commanded Joshua, "Choose some men to go out and fight the army of Amalek for us. Tomorrow, I will stand at the top of the hill, holding the staff of God in my hand."

10 So Joshua did what Moses had commanded and fought the army of Amalek. Meanwhile, Moses, Aaron, and Hur climbed to the top of a nearby hill. 11 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. 12 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. 13 As a result, Joshua overwhelmed the army of Amalek in battle.

14 After the victory, the Lord instructed Moses, "Write this down on a scroll as a permanent reminder, and read it aloud to Joshua: I will erase the memory of Amalek from under heaven." 15 Moses built an altar there and named it Yahweh-Nissi (which means "the Lord is my banner"). 16 He said, "They have raised their fist against the Lord's throne, so now the Lord will be at war with Amalek generation after generation."

God was and is a warrior. He made sure the Israelites were capable to whip some tail against the Amalekites. Moses took a Gandalf-like feature by holding up his staff and as God helped the Israelites to have the advantage. In the story, we read that when Moses' hands went down, the Israelites began to fall back. So, Aaron and Hur stood on each side of Moses and held his arms up for him. Because Moses was able to keep his arms up, his team of warriors overcame the Amalekites.

God is as much of a warrior today as He was during the battle against the Amalekites. He's also called you to battle. Men reflect the warrior side of God, but don't think for a second that you are given an out from the battle, women. Some amazing warriors have fought for justice that are women. In the Book of Judges, we read about a judge named Deborah who was a warrior and was in the thick of battle. You have a battle to fight, as well. Men and women are a part of the fight against injustice in the world. We

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