

# Lessons From The Battlefield

## I. Battle Plans

### A. Disruption, Change, God's Involvement

Matthew 4:19-20 (NIV®)

<sup>19</sup> "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

Matthew 19:27-28 (NIV®)

<sup>27</sup> Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?" <sup>28</sup> Jesus said to them, "**I tell you the truth**, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Luke 14:25-27 (NIV®)

<sup>25</sup> Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: <sup>26</sup> "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

### B. Watch, Listen, Think, Act

Mark 8:15-17 (NIV®)

<sup>15</sup> "Be careful," Jesus warned them. "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod." <sup>16</sup> They discussed this with one another and said, "It is because we have no bread." <sup>17</sup> Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: "Why are you talking about having no bread? **Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened?**

### C. Powerful Influences Of The Invisible

Psalms 121:1-3 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot slip-- he who watches over you will not slumber;

2 Chronicles 32:20-21 (NIV®)

<sup>20</sup> King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz cried out in prayer to heaven about this. <sup>21</sup> And the LORD sent an angel, who annihilated all the fighting men and the leaders and officers in the camp of the Assyrian king. So he withdrew to his own land in disgrace. And when he went into the temple of his god, some of his sons cut him down with the sword.

❖ Fear of the Lord, repentance, humility, serving, generosity, faithfulness

### D. What Are We Teaching The Children?

Matthew 18:1-7 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" <sup>2</sup> He called a little child and had him stand among them. <sup>3</sup> And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup> "And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. <sup>6</sup> But **if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.** <sup>7</sup> "Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come!

Matthew 18:10 (NIV®)

"See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

## E. Overcome

Revelation 21:6-8 (NIV®)

<sup>6</sup> He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. <sup>7</sup> **He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.** <sup>8</sup> But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

John 16:33 (NIV®)

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

## F. "The Roar Of Truth And Righteousness"

Revelation 19:11-16 (NIV®)

<sup>11</sup> I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, **whose rider is called Faithful and True.** With justice he judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. <sup>13</sup> He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. <sup>14</sup> The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. <sup>15</sup> Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. <sup>16</sup> On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 (NIV®)

<sup>9</sup> The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, <sup>10</sup> and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. **They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.**

Proverbs 23:23 (NIV®)

Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.

## G. Weariness

Psalms 73:2-3 (NIV®)

<sup>2</sup> But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. <sup>3</sup> For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Nehemiah 4:10, 15-18 (NIV®)

<sup>10</sup> Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall." . . . <sup>15</sup> When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to his own work. <sup>16</sup> From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah <sup>17</sup> who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, <sup>18</sup> and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.

Hebrews 3:12-14 (NIV®)

<sup>12</sup> See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. <sup>13</sup> But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. <sup>14</sup> We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.

## Prayer

Almighty God, You are delivering us and making a new way before us. We rejoice in Your faithfulness and the display of Your grace and mercy. You reached out and lifted us up when the flood of devastation was approaching. We acknowledge You and rejoice in Your faithfulness. Now open the pathways to begin again. Fill us with a determination to honor You in the season ahead. May the spirit of confusion be broken and clarity of purpose settle upon Your people. Open doors for the proclamation of Your truth unlike any we have ever witnessed. Pour out Your Spirit upon us. Reach out Your hand to heal, deliver and restore—in Jesus' name, amen.