**10/11/15 “Prepare for Battle”**

(Ephesians 6:10-20)

1. Introduction
   1. Fulfilling the singular purpose of the Church=Make Disciples
   2. Last week- talked about how we can do that by following the example of Philip in Acts 8= Listen, Obey, Whatever it takes, Spontaneous, Celebrate
   3. This week we are looking at the hard part of making Disciples
   4. We Understand that Jesus Calls us to an exciting adventurous life not easy safe
      1. Few weeks back we looked at that and how the disciples/apostles came face to face with that reality
      2. The first church in Acts was no stranger to the struggle and persecution of the gospel
      3. Important for us to understand that is not all Rainbows, Sunshine and Daisies
      4. No prosperity gospel here! At Ebenezer

Ephesians 6:10-20 10Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.16In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;17and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

1. Paul was using a physical example of the Roman soldiers uniform to demonstrate a spiritual principle
   1. Something familiar to his readers
   2. I Love Historical Hero Movies
      1. Movies=300, Gladiator, Braveheart
   3. Made for it, born in wrong era
   4. Familiar to Paul’s readers, it might not be familiar to everyone today
      1. Theme for whatever it takes
      2. I thought it would be far better to actually put on the armor of God this am!
         1. Belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of Spirit/Word of God
2. Dressed for Battle
   1. The attacks are Similar but different for each one, How does the Enemy attack you
      1. What he attacks for each one of us is similar
      2. The way he attacks each individual can be different
      3. As we go through each piece I want you to think about how the Enemy goes about attacking you personally
   2. Belt of Truth
      1. Truth: reality, what has happened, what is known.
      2. John 831-32 31So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
      3. Word here protects us by knowing it, later it will be our offensive weapon
      4. Belt protects our “innards” as my late grandmother would say. A blow here with a sword would almost always be fatal
      5. Spiritual Warfare
         1. Morals- Modern
         2. Society “The World” is always trying to be our moral compass
         3. That’s dangerous could be fatal to our spiritual well-being
         4. Only moral compass= Jesus
         5. Put on his Belt of truth to protect against it
   3. Breastplate of righteousness
      1. Righteousness: thinking and doing what is right in God’s eyes.
      2. Matt. 15 18- 20a 18But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. 19For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. 20These are what defile a person. . . . . . . . . .
      3. Protect our heart- again a blow here is almost always fatal
      4. Spiritual Warfare
         1. Desires, Temptation
         2. David and Bathsheba- his heart
            1. David was tempted when he saw Bathsheba
            2. Lured by his desire in his heart- Jesus said lust in heart
            3. Sinned-Adultery, and having Uriah killed
         3. James 1:14-15 14But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. THAT’S THE DEATH BLOW
      5. Breastplate of Righteousness-
         1. The only way is through confession and prayer, asking to be protected
         2. James 5:16 16Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.
   4. Shoes= Readiness of gospel
      1. readiness: being mentally, emotionally, spiritually ready, prepared to do something for God.
      2. 2 Tim. 4:2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.
      3. Shoes-
         1. protect our feet- had a foot injury?
         2. cannot be mobile carry out the message- don’t won’t to move
         3. allows us to be faster
      4. Spiritual Warfare
         1. Enemy wants us to slow down, give up, turn back, retreat
         2. Compassion Fatigue=heard it this week that Jesus never got it
         3. Jesus never got tired of doing good, didn’t say he never got tired and rested but even when he was wore out didn’t turn the needy away
      5. Always marching forward moving ahead to Make Disciples.
      6. Rom. 10:14-15 14How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”
      7. Bring the good news and feet will be beautiful
      8. Gotta go forward
   5. Shield of Faith
      1. faith: godly conviction and determination in the face of uncertainty and the unknown.
      2. Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
         1. “Clear as mud”- Mom
      3. What we believe and know is true
      4. Spiritual Warfare
         1. “Flaming Darts of the evil one”
         2. Doubt, Unbelief
      5. Abraham

Romans 4:18-25 18In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” 19He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. 20No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. 22That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” 23But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, 24but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, 25who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

* + - 1. V. 20 no unbelief made him waver
      2. Didn’t say he didn’t have unbelief or doubt but did not make him waver
    1. Shield of Faith= belief in Jesus, Romans 4:24-25
  1. Helmet of Salvation
     1. Salvation: knowing you are saved, not alone, of worth to God, delivered from the penalty and power of sin.
     2. Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
     3. Protects our Head, fatal blow
     4. Spiritual Warfare
        1. Our Thoughts
        2. Paul: Romans 7:15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.
        3. The enemy can get into our mind and play tricks on us: What we think about
     5. Psalm 119:15 I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways
     6. Meditating on the right things brings the helmet of Salvation
  2. Sword of Spirit= Word of God
     1. word of God: the sayings of God, what God’s word says about my thoughts, feeling, situation.
     2. Isaiah 55:11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
     3. It’s our only weapon, has nothing to do with us
        1. Confession: I struggle with self-righteousness
        2. Sometimes we try to do battle with our own weapon
           1. SR, knowledge, sarcasm, humor, etc.
        3. Newsflash: God doesn’t need our help his word is enough
     4. Spiritual Warfare
        1. How do we attack the Enemy: Word of God
        2. Twist it, try to turn the sword on us, Remember the Devil with Jesus when he was in the wilderness fasting, praying and being Tempted before he began his ministry

Matt. 4:5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple 6and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,” ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” Quoted Ps. 91:11-12

* + - 1. Jesus’s answer in v.7 “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”  Duet. 6:16
      2. Try to turn the sword on you, if he did it to Jesus what can we expect?
    1. Know the word
       1. Not just memorizing scripture, but that is important
       2. Read it
       3. Also know the intent of the scripture
       4. Listen to the Holy Spirit=Last Week

1. Notice that there is no piece of armor on the backside
   1. We should always be going forward
   2. Paul talks about running the race and in Philippians 3:13-14 . . . .But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,14I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
   3. Spiritual Warfare
      1. Enemy will try to bring up the past because he knows he can’t defeat you from the front if you have the armor of God
      2. Sins, Regrets, missed opportunities
   4. Forget what lies behind- Paul in phil. 3:13
      1. Not easy
      2. Can’t let it affect us
   5. The enemy will be defeated
      1. Rev. 21 tells us the enemy will be defeated and thrown into the lake of fire
      2. We win, we know the outcome
      3. We must put on the armor and fight