

THE SIX WEEK PURSUIT HEROE'S LEGACY

WEEK 3 – God's Fight

Wednesday - "I Punched because I was Right"

BIBLE STUDY:

Read James 4:1-10 before reading our Devotional.

Devotional:

Dear Church Family,

I only ever punched someone once growing up; and not in a playful sort of way. It was the second grade and a friend of mine, we shall call Rusty, was always whining. At that age, for whatever the reason, whining and complaining truly gnawed at my nerves. And one fateful day, Rusty's sobbing and bellyaching became too much for a young Ty to bear. Rusty was acting wrong, and he need to be corrected!

So, I did the reasonable thing and decked him in the face; giving him a bloody nose. I punched because I was right, and Rusty was acting wrong.

Have you ever picked a fight? Well, maybe you have not physically hit someone, (or maybe you have), but we have all been in fights. Whether we were exchanging kicks, hollering arguments, or calling names, we have all fallen victim to a fight at one time or another. Admittedly, for some of us, fighting is a daily routine and simply a component of our day-to-day itinerary.

But, have you ever stopped to ask: why do we pick fights? The brief answer is that we fight because we either want something or feel the need to defend something. Either way, it is motivated by a perspective that sees us as right, and others as wrong. As we read in James, these feelings are a direct result of our broken sinful nature.

James states that quarrelling amongst God's people is unacceptable. And before you attempt to make the argument: "well, what if the person I am fighting with is not a follower of Jesus, or at least a questionable follower of Jesus?" You still call yourself a Christian, do you not? In no uncertain terms, James explains that our desire to fight is wrong. If we want to pick fights, argue, debate, and quarrel, then it is us who are in sin.

The words we read in James 4 are harsh. The reason is because God's people will never flourish or even remotely resemble Jesus if they are fighting amongst themselves. And church, I want to participate with the solution. And that solution is humbling ourselves before God. In James 4:2-3, we read that we are to ask of God and not expect anything from others. But here we encounter our true struggle: our requests of God are meaningless if our hearts are out of line.

Thankfully, the solution is as we stated before: to simply humble ourselves before God. That being said, entrusting our battles to God is a difficult process for us; as it means confessing our weakness. Last week, we discussed the need for humility and a humble heart. This only further emphasizes why. We are broken and sinful, and thus we, ourselves, are not right. Only Jesus, is truly right. That is why He is called righteous. And the righteous one did not come to pick fights. Jesus came that all may be saved.

I want to follow Jesus. So therefore, I need to be at peace with those around me. I do not wish to start fights, ignore fights, or participate in them. Church, we must desire to share in Jesus' identity as the Prince of Peace and become peacemakers ourselves. You can trust God. The battles are His and He is for you, not against you.

Sincerely,
Ty Weaver

Challenge:

What or who do you constantly fight with? If not constantly, then what did you last argue or fight over with someone? Were you satisfied, in the moment, with the results of the fight? Why or why not?

All of our quarreling, arguing, and fighting contradicts who we are meant to be. So the question is: what will you do next time you find yourself in a conflict?

Prayer:

Let's conclude with a time of prayer. You can structure this time however you feel lead. Listed below are some topics that could help guide this time of prayer.

- Pray for forgiveness from God
- Pray for God to increase your faith and trust in Him; that He will fight your battles.

Pray for Jesus' attitude of peace and peacemaking.