

## Working Together

Scripture: Exodus 17:8 – 13 and 1 Corinthians 3:7 – 9

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

In our first scripture reading from the Book of Exodus, Joshua leads the Israelite army into battle with the Amalekites. The Amalekites have a much superior army to the Israelite army. They have more man and equipment. Victory looks almost impossible! Joshua is doing exactly what Moses instructed him to do. Moses is the leader of the Israelites, but Joshua (Moses' second in command) is leading the army, just as Moses told him to do.

Joshua stands in front of his army and sees off in the distance a much stronger foe. Where is Moses? Joshua is younger and stronger than Moses, but where is Moses? Joshua is told by Moses to lead the army into battle, but what is Moses going to do to insure a victory by the Israelites over a much stronger army? Where is Moses?

Moses was on top of a hill holding a staff in his hand. The army of Israel can see Moses on the hill with the staff that God had instructed him to carry. As the battle begins, Moses lifts his arms up with the staff in his hands and the Israelite army begin to overpower their enemy. But then Moses arms tired and he has to put down his arms and the staff - and the army of Israel begin to lose the battle. When Moses drops his arms to his side, the Amalekites begin winning the battle.

This is a wonderful story, so let us look at this battle closer. To do this, we are going to act out the battle focusing on Moses on the hill.

Our actors are: Moses is Emily Swett, Aaron is Josh Fisher, and Hur is Sherri Plocinski

(Demonstrate the situation, Moses actor should hold staff over his head in front of communion table.)

Moses is stand on a hill where all the people of Israel can see him holding his arms up with the staff that God gave Moses or that came from Beebe Health Care in his arms.

As the battle progresses with the Israelites winning, Moses' arms begin to tire!

(Moses actor should begin to look tired.)

Moses is tiring and the battle is now going to Amalekites. Aaron and Hur see this!

(Aaron and Hur actors should notice Moses tiring.)

Aaron & Hur see the situation:

Moses' arms and staff up & overhead: we are winning;

Moses' arms and staff at his side: we are losing. They rush to Moses to Moses' side and hold Moses' arms up with Moses' staff in hand. They decide to assist Moses in holding his arms and the staff up.

(Aaron and Hur actors come to Moses aid and hold his arm and staff up.)

Aaron & Hur hold Moses' arm and staff up for the rest of the battle. Note - they do not hold the staff up - they hold up Moses' arms because the power of victory is still through Moses. Working together, the battle was won!

The people of God cheer for Moses and for the help of Aaron and Hur.

(Moses, Aaron, and Hur should cheer!)

God still commands his people to join together so that his work may be accomplished. We may be from different religious upbringing, we may be of different nationalities, and we may be from different races, but together we can accomplish God's work. Despite our differences, there is work for each person to do.

God still commands his people of which each of you are a part, to join together so that his work may be accomplished. You may be from different religious upbringing, you may be of different nationalities, and you may be from different races, but together we can accomplish God's work. Despite our differences, there is work for each person to do.

As Aaron & Hur lifted Moses' arms so that God's work might be done. We, each of us, you - must lift up Jesus Christ so that God's work might be done. Our staff to lift high is Jesus Christ.

In our second scripture reading from 1 Corinthians 3:9 it says -  
*'For we are God's fellow workers.'*

We are God's fellow workers. Let us lift high up our staff - Jesus Christ. Let us follow Aaron & Hur example so that God's work might be done.

Let us lift up one another in prayer. Let us lift up one another in spirit. Let us lift up one another in love. That is our spiritual battle. If we lift up one another in prayer, in spirit, and in love; the battle will be won! The Battle will be won!

(Stand in front of the congregation)

If I tire, will you lift up Jesus Christ? If I tire, will you hold my arms up so that God's work can be accomplished? If my arms fall to my side, will you put them back up and lift up Jesus Christ?

Will you lift up Jesus Christ?

Let us pray:

Precious Father, please help each of us, your children, to work together to further your kingdom here on earth. Let us always lift up in prayer, in spirit, and in love each other. Will we lift up Jesus Christ? Let us respond with an overwhelming YES! AMEN.

To conclude today's message, I would like to recognize the members of the Bethany Beach Management Committee – Barry McNews, Bob Hindsley, Scott Hoffman, Mike Hoffman, Laird Thomason, Arlene Sullivan, Kevin Wiggs, Pat Drizd, Marina Overby, Laura Fisher, and Cathleen Barlett. \_\_\_\_\_

This will be our first summer camping season in three years since Covid hit. We are hoping and praying that a lot of youth and adults will be coming to camp to strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ.

O God, the giver of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for these people in our midst to support and lead our camp management, By your grace assist them in building up our summer camping program.

This is my first year as the Pastor of the host church for the Camp and Conference Center. I would not be standing here if it was not for camping ministry with youth. I did not go to a Summer Christian Camp when I was growing up but as an adult, I became very active in camp ministry. I started as a counselor at Chi Rho Camps (Junior High Camps) then I directed CYF camps (High School Camps), and for 13 years I was the Camp Coordinator of Nordmont Christian Camp in Northeastern PA. Nordmont grew from 60 campers per year to almost 200 campers per year. The first place I was commissioned to ministry at was Vesper Hill at Nordmont! Yes, my first church met only 8 weeks a year and since the selling of the camp, Vesper Hill is now a field full of wild flowers. My calling into ministry came at summer camp with youth all about!

We need, as the host congregation, to support this vital ministry of summer Christian Camps at the Bethany Beach Camp and Conference Center.

And now I would like to recognize the Camp Manager, Emily Swett and her assistant Josh Fisher. Let us commission them for the task they have ahead of them.

So, if Emily tires, will you lift her up? So, if Josh tires, will you lift him up?

Will Emily and Josh please stand where they are? If you are near them, will you place a hand upon them. Let us pray:

O God, we reaffirm our faith in you and we understand that the ministry of Summer Christian Camps are a vital part of the Capital Region. We covenant to support Emily and Josh with our prayers, encouragement, and respect in the task that lies ahead for them. We celebrate their willing to take on this task.

In the name of Jesus Christ, the head of our church, we now commission them as Camp Manager and Assistant Camp Manager for 2022. May God bless them. AMEN.