

Old Union Missionary Baptist Church

Ministers School-2025

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When God Moves

2 Samuel 5:23-25

23 And when David enquired of the Lord, he said, Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees. 24 And let it be, when thou hearest the **sound of a going** in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the Lord go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines. 25 And David did so, as the Lord had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer.

Introduction:

David had just been anointed king over all Israel, and now he faced the Philistines in battle. Instead of rushing in with confidence, he waited for God's direction—a rustling sound in the tops of the mulberry trees.

I. Faithful Obedience “Let it be, when thou hearest the sound...” (2 Samuel 5:24)

David demonstrates faith and obedience by waiting for God's signal. He does not rush into action but trusts that God will give clear directions. This is an important aspect of spiritual maturity—waiting for God's clear instructions rather than moving on impulse.

- A. Isaiah 30:21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.
 - a. Like a shepherd behind the flock.
 - b. “word behind thee” reminds us that God is not always seen, but can be heard.
- B. Judges 14:8-9 And after a time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcase of the lion: and, behold, there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcase of the lion. 9 And he took thereof in his hands, and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and he gave them, and they did eat: but he told not them that he had taken the honey out of the carcase of the lion.
- C. Numbers 9:23 At the commandment of the LORD they rested in the tents, and at the commandment of the LORD they journeyed; they kept the charge of the LORD, at the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses”

II. God is With Us “when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees” (2 Samuel 5:24)

David was not alone while he waited—God’s presence was with him. In the same way, we are never alone in our waiting. God abides with us, guiding, comforting, and preparing us for the battle ahead.

A. John 14:16 **And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter (Paraklētos), that he may abide with you for ever;**

1. “Paraklētos” is an advocate, helper, comforter, or counselor. One called along side to help.

a. Matthew 11:28–30 “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me... For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

i. A yoke was a wooden beam used to harness two animals together so they could pull a load in sync.

B. 1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate (paraklētos) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

III. God's Strategy “That then thou shalt bestir thyself; for then shall the Lord go out before thee...” (2 Samuel 5:24)

David is told to wait until he hears the signal and then act swiftly. The phrase “bestir thyself” means to move with urgency and purpose. This shows that God’s timing is not random; it is strategic and purposeful. David is not to rush into battle or move without God’s direction.

A. Judges 7:9-14 9 And it came to pass the same night, that the Lord said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the host; for I have delivered it into thine hand. 10 But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host: 11 And thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thine hands be strengthened to go down unto the host. Then went he down with Phurah his servant unto the outside of the armed men that were in the host. 12 And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude. 13 And when Gideon was come, behold, there was a man that told a dream unto his fellow, and said, Behold, I dreamed a dream, and, lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it, that the tent lay along. 14 And his fellow answered and said, This is nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: for into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host.

a. More than 30,000 men responded to Gideon’s call to battle. From this large group, only 300 were chosen to carry out a surprise nighttime attack on the Midianite camp, resulting in the enemy’s defeat and retreat.

i. God wanted Israel to KNOW the victory was because of him.

b. “The sword of the Lord and of Gideon.” The interesting thing is that Gideon did not have a sword and neither did any of the three hundred men.

IV. God's Timing “That then thou shalt bestir thyself; for then shall the Lord go out before thee...” (2 Samuel 5:24)

In our own lives, we must recognize that God's timing is perfect. God often asks us to wait for His signal. Trusting God's timing requires patience and faith, and knowing that His plans are always better than our own.

- A. Psalm 27:14 Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.
- B. James 5:7-8 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.⁸ Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.
- C. Joel 2:23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.
 - a. The "latter rain" refers to the final outpouring of rain before the harvest.

V. Battle is Ahead "For then shall the Lord go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines."
(2 Samuel 5:24)

God promises that when David acts in response to His signal, God will lead the way and fight on David's behalf. The mulberry tree's sound represents a sign that God's presence is with David, going before him to defeat the enemy.

- A. Greek word "**nikaō**" appears frequently in the New Testament, especially in contexts emphasizing spiritual victory, overcoming the world, and triumph through Christ.
 - 1. 1 John 5:4-5 "For everyone born of God overcomes (nikaō) the world. This is the victory (nikē) that has overcome the world—our faith."
 - 2. The company Nike chose its name to symbolize this concept of triumph and overcoming challenges, drawing from the same Greek idea of victory celebrated in the New Testament and Greek Goddess Nike.
 - a) Greek goddess Nike wore a laurel wreath as a crown. Our victor wears a crown of thorns
 - b) Revelation 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;
 - 3. Revelation 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;
- B. The Hebrew word "**hāram**" is used in the Old Testament to describe total destruction, often as part of God's judgment or commands in battle.
 - 1. Joshua 6:21 And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword.
- C. Judges 14:5-6 Kings may have hunted lions for sport, but shepherds and men like Samson and David killed them for protection.

VI. Conclusion

When God moves, victory is certain—but only when we move with Him. David's success didn't come from military strength or clever tactics, but from obedience to God's voice, trust in His presence, His plan, and His timing. The sound in the mulberry trees was not just a rustling of leaves—it was the signal of divine power on the move.

In our life, there will be times when the enemy surrounds us, and we will not know what to do. Wait for the Spirit's leading. And when He speaks, bestir thyself, and know that the Lord goes before you. Victory is not found in your strength, but in your surrender.