**WHO IS ON THE LORD’S SIDE?**

Sunday School Lesson 13

*Lessons from the Hymnbook*

Joshua 24:15

1/8/2023

**Introduction:** Last week, we studied the Bible principles found in the hymn “Stepping in the Light.” We noted, first, that stepping in the light means following the steps of the Lord. The Lord is light, so we must follow Him to be walking in the light. Stepping in the light also means that we must stay close to the Lord. Our closeness to the Lord helps us to stay farther away from the temptation of the darkness of sin. Stepping in the light also means being patient with others and also yourself. Lastly, we observed that stepping in the light is not limited to one step. It is a continual stepping, and we are following the Lord through the end of the journey. For today’s lesson, we are going to be studying the Biblical themes found in the hymn “Who Is On The Lord’s Side?” The song was written by Frances Havergal on October 13, 1877. She authored over fifty hymns with her most popular hymn being “Take My Life And Let It Be.”   
While Joshua 24:15 seems to be the most fitting verse to fit the theme of this song, Ms. Havergal based the lyrics on the loyal men of David who chose to fight by his side in 1 Chronicles 12:18. The hymn was also originally titled “Home Missions.” This title was meant to connect the spiritual battle and serving the Lord with doing the mission of sharing the Gospel in our local area. Let us observe what Biblical lessons this hymn can teach us this morning:

1. **BEING ON THE LORD’S SIDE MEANS BEING HIS HELPERS AND GOING OUT TO BATTLE.**
2. **Notice that being on the Lord’s side means serving the King as His helpers in bringing other lives to Him (1 Corinthians 16:16; Luke 14:23; 1 Chronicles 12:18; Hebrews 13:6; ).** Probably the easiest thing to do is to sing and to say that we are on the Lord’s side. What religious person is going to say that they are not on the Lord’s side? Only a fool would say that he is on the side of Satan. Yet, saying that we are on the Lord’s side does not amount to much if we are not doing anything to help in this spiritual battle. The mighty men that went with David proclaimed their willingness to be helpers together with him. We know that the Lord is our ever present help, but do we help in fighting the battle for the Lord. Obviously, our all-powerful God does not need any help, but He has chosen us as worthy soldiers to help alongside Him in this battle. Let us be good servants of the Master by bringing other lives to Him. We are to go out and compel them to come.
3. **Notice that being on the Lord’s side means being willing to go out and face the foe (1 Timothy 6:12; 1 Corinthians 9:26; 1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:16; James 4:7).** As people, we probably would prefer to not have to fight against Satan. He is a strong adversary. He deceived mankind and helped facilitate our fall. We also know that our flesh is weak. Yet, the Bible encourages us that greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world. Thus, we must go out and face the foe. We have the Spirit of the Lord on our side. We must resist the Devil. That’s an act of defiance against him. That’s fighting against him. How can we say that we are on the Lord’s side if we never stand up against Satan? If we always give in to him or cower at his devices, we are not standing strong on the Lord’s side. Remember that God has not given us the spirit of fear.
4. **BEING ON THE LORD’S SIDE MEANS WE FIGHT OUT OF LOVE NOT FOR MATERIAL GAIN.**
5. **Notice that we do not fight for earthly recognition or possessions (Philippians 3:8-9; Matthew 6; Colossians 3:24; 1 Corinthians 9:17-18)** Our reasoning for being on the Lord’s side is not that it will make us famous here on this earth. You may live your whole life serving the Lord, and very few people may ever even know who you are. The Lord’s side is not the popular side. There are few that enter in. If our motivation is recognition, we must understand that the first shall be last. Additionally, we are not fighting for earthly rewards. While it is certainly true that we are looking forward to heavenly rewards, we also know that we have already received the greatest reward possible – eternal life. For that reason, the heavenly rewards are secondary, and they are ultimately a reflection of whether we pleased the Lord in our service or not.
6. **Notice that we are on the Lord’s side because we love Him, and He loves us (Matthew 6:24; 22:37; Luke 6:13).** It ought to be our love for the Lord that causes us to serve Him. It ought to also be our love of goodness and righteousness that compels us to serve the Lord and be on His side. Further, we know that we only love Him because He first loved us. It ought to be His love that causes us to be on His side. Why would we side with Satan who hates mankind and has done nothing but condemn us to Hell? The love from the Lord constrains us (2 Corinthians 5:14), and it pleads with us to be on His side and love Him back.
7. **BEING ON THE LORD’S SIDE IS EXPECTED BECAUSE HE BOUGHT US WITH HIS BLOOD.**
8. **Notice that we ought to be on the Lord’s side because He purchased our freedom with His own blood (John 15:13; Acts 20:28).** If there were ever any doubt what side we should be on, let me remind you that the Lord Jesus purchased our freedom with His own blood. He gave up His life for us to be free from sin and to receive eternal life. There is no greater love than a man laying down his life for his friends. That’s what Jesus Christ has done for you and me. It is reasonable then for us to be on His side. We ought not to be fixed between two positions. It ought not to even be a consideration whether to be for Him or for this world. The thought that He has purchased us tells us that we owe Him. We belong to Him. If that is not appealing to you, consider what the alternative is. Would you rather be owned by sin and Satan?
9. **Notice that the Lord has left us free to make our decision to follow Him (Joshua 24:15; Deuteronomy 30:19; 1 Kings 18:21).** While the Lord offers us freedom from sin and its bondage, we also see that the Lord has given us the freedom to make that choice. He gave that same freedom to Adam and Eve, and they unfortunately made the wrong decision. When choosing whose side you want to be on, do you want to be on the side of the individual who does not want for you to have freedom? As Americans, we certainly love our liberty and freedom. They are God-ordained items. Sadly, we know in our country that there are a large number of people who willingly choose to side with the same individuals who want to take their freedoms. Let’s not make that same foolish decision in the spiritual battle. Side with the Lord and the freedom He gives.
10. **BEING ON THE LORD’S SIDE IS THE EASY CHOICE BECAUSE IT IS THE WINNING SIDE.**
11. **Notice that there is none that can overthrow the Lord, so victory is certain (2 Chronicles 25:8; Acts 5:38-39; 1 Corinthians 15:57).** The most obvious reason for us to be on the Lord’s side is that it is the winning side. Everyone wants to be on the winning side. As I try to understand why someone would pick the losing side, the only thing I can think of is that they love that side too much. As a sports fan, there are times where I’m very confident that the team I’m cheering for is going to lose. Yet, I still pull for that team because of affection that I have for them. If we apply that to spiritual sides, the only explanation is that men love darkness more than light. They’d rather be on the losing side and have their sin. They’d rather enjoy that wickedness for a season. As believers, we are lovers of light. Thus, we ought to easily pick the winning side.
12. **Notice that the unchanging truth of the Lord gives us confidence to be on His victorious side (Jeremiah 1:19; Isaiah 40:6-8; Malachi 3:6).** How do we know that the Lord’s side is the winning side? Well, the simple answer is that He told us so. He is Truth, and He does not change. If the Lord sends forth a proclamation, there is no one who can stop it from taking place. Thus, we have total confidence in the Lord and His ability to bring us the victory. The Lord has given us a Revelation to show us exactly what is going to happen in the end. Aren’t you glad that you don’t have to hope or wish for a victory? We have a guaranteed one, and there is no one who can take it away from us. Let’s rejoice that we are on the winning side!
13. **BEING ON THE LORD’S SIDE MEANS SERVING WITH FAITHFULNESS AND LOYALTY.**
14. **Notice that we ought to be faithful to the Lord’s side (1 Corinthians 4:2; James 1:8; Revelation 22:6).** There is actually a fifth stanza to this song that is not listed in our hymnbook. Here are the lyrics: “Chosen to be soldiers, in an alien land, Chosen, called, and faithful, for our Captain’s band, In the service royal, let us not grow cold; Let us be right loyal, noble, true and bold. Master, Thou wilt keep us, by Thy grace divine, Always on the Lord’s side—Saviour, always Thine!” The reminder is that we ought to first be faithful to the Lord and His side. We are not to be double minded. We should not be flip flopping back and forth between the Lord and the world. The Lord is looking for a faithful servant. He expects that out of us. He expects a faithful soldier. He wants those who are going to show up day after day and fight the good fight.
15. **Notice that we ought to faithful and loyal because the Lord has always been faithful and loyal to us (Deuteronomy 7:9; 1 Corinthians 1:9).** The Lord is always faithful to us. He will never leave us nor forsake us. Isn’t that the kind of friend that you want to have by your side? He loves us very much. He made us free. He is always victorious. He is faithful and loyal. He is our best friend. He is the best that we could possibly have fighting with us. What are we in return though? Are we loving? Do we stay in fear and run away from every spiritual fight? Are we constantly jumping to the other side? The Lord wants us on His side. Let’s not only be on His side, but let’s stay on His side and not be afraid to fight for the Lord.