

Pastor John Jenkins  
 Bridgeway Community Church  
 Series: Winter Guest Speaker Series  
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**GUEST SPEAKER SERIES:**  
**“Pastor John Jenkins”**

I. “I’M NOT GOING DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT!”

**Joshua 11:1-9 (NKJV):**

*And it came to pass, when Jabin king of Hazor heard these things, that he sent to Jobab king of Madon, to the king of Shimron, to the king of Achshaph, and to the kings who were from the north, in the mountains, in the plain south of Chinneroth, in the lowland, and in the heights of Dor on the west, to the Canaanites in the east and in the west, the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite in the mountains, and the Hivite below Hermon in the land of Mizpah. So they went out, they and all their armies with them, as many people as the sand that is on the seashore in multitude, with very many horses and chariots. And when all these kings had [a]met together, they came and camped together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel.*

*But the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow about this time I will deliver all of them slain before Israel. You shall (K) hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire.” So Joshua and all the people of war with him came against them suddenly by the waters of Merom, and they attacked them. And the Lord delivered them into the hand of Israel, who defeated them and chased them to Greater Sidon, to the Brook Misrephoth, and to the Valley of Mizpah eastward; they attacked them until they left none of them remaining. So Joshua did to them as the Lord had told him: he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire.*

Joshua follows in Moses footsteps. In following Moses, Joshua finds himself facing some challenges that he has to overcome.

**Main point:**

**I want to tell you today that God wants you to be able to win the battle, but I also need to tell you that it is going to require a fight. You need to have the mentality to say, “I am not going down without a fight!”**

For you to have a better life and become everything God wants you to become, it is going to require a fight!

The Enemy is not going to sit back and watch you win without doing something to try to discourage you – to destroy your marriage, your family, your call, your integrity. I’m here to tell you: Don’t go down without a fight!

## II. FACING YOUR OPPOSITION

Jabin, king of Hazor, hears of the military victory Israel is experiencing, and he joins up with other kings from all over the region to come together against Israel.

The odds may be against you, *but if GOD be for you...*

It doesn’t matter what the odds might say, it’s about what the Living God says! I’m here to say that you’re going to be the head and not the tail, at the top and not at the bottom! Maybe you’re here today and you’re asking: “If God is on my side, what position should I take? What should my next step be?”

Here’s what Joshua did. Look at **verse 5**...

*“And when all these kings had met together, they came and camped together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel.” (NKJV)*

The devil’s going to come fight against you. And what should you do?

Look at **verse 6**: *“But the Lord said to Joshua, ‘Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow about this time I will deliver all of them slain before Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire.’” (NKJV)*

First I’ve got to talk about that for a minute. Did you know that God’s got a big ole “but”? It says, *“BUT the Lord said to Joshua...”* I love it when God sticks his “but” in my situation! When God’s “but” shows up in Scripture, it means that something is about to shift. Something is about to change!

In the midst of our circumstances, we need a Word from God. And what does God say? *“Don’t be afraid...” (Verse 6)*. Don’t be afraid to get in the battle. Satan wants to use fear to keep you from fighting your battle. I’ve learned in life to run toward your battles, not away from them.

When lions want to attack their prey, they put the old toothless lion up front to roar and scare their prey so they run away straight into the younger pack of lions ready to pounce.

Run toward the “roar!” Don’t be afraid of your fears. Run toward your fears. God has not given us a spirit of fear!

*“For tomorrow about this time...”(Joshua 11:6 NKJV)* Do you know what that means?

The fight won't last long! God has a timetable to tell you that God is about to bring your frustrations to a conclusion. He's about to shut it down. I prophesy it! Look at your watch... By this time tomorrow, something's going to be different! By this time next week, next month, next year, something's going to change! The battle won't last much longer!

But the Lord didn't just leave it at that. He went on in **verse 6** to say: *“You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire.” (NKJV)*

Horses represent weaponry. The Lord is saying, “I'm going to take their power away.” To hamstring a horse means to cut the muscle of the horse at its strongest point. Some people in your life have tried to hurt you, frustrate you, and defeat you, but they're about to get hamstrung.

For example, I used to have a good government job, and my immediate supervisor took another job. My boss's boss called me in her office and said that they would need to do my supervisor's job until they found someone else. She was going to select the replacement, and told me to not even apply since I wasn't qualified. And she was right; so I didn't apply. But after having done the job, a few months later, she called me into her office and said, “You've been selected for the job.” It turned out that my boss's boss's boss told my boss's boss: “Hire John Jenkins for the position.” I got a job I didn't even apply for! My boss's boss got hamstrung!

Somebody say: “Go ahead and hamstring them for me Jesus! Take care of them for me Jesus! Fight my battle for me Jesus!” Just get in the fight and don't give up without putting up a fight! We serve a God who the devil thought he beat. It looked like the devil won when he saw Jesus on that cross. But what he didn't know was that it was only Friday, and Sunday was coming!

### III. CONCLUSION

Muhammad Ali's daughter, Leila Ali, was a boxer too. And she had a 24-0 record, never losing a fight. She almost lost one fight, where she had a cut over the eye and her nose was bleeding, but she came back and won. They interviewed her after the fight and asked her, “How did you make that comeback? It looked like you were going to lose. What happened?” She said, “I watched my father fight a lot of people who might have beat him – I saw him fight Joe Fraiser, I saw him fight George Foreman, and I saw him come back and win when it looked like he was about to lose. And so, when I thought about who my daddy was...”

If you only know who your daddy is! He's the Lily of the Valley, he's the Bright Morning Star, he is the Winner of ALL Winner – don't go down without a fight!