

# *It's About Time to Fight Effectively*

Sermon Outline for September 18, 2011 by Pastor Dennis

**Intro** - Luke 13 and 9/11; Ps. 18:31-40; 144:1,2

**1. Lamenting our state** - 2b And all the house of Israel ***lamented after the LORD.***

**2. Putting away our idols and recommitting ourselves to total service to Yahweh**

3 Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you ***return to the LORD with all your hearts***, then ***put away*** the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and ***prepare your hearts for the LORD***, and ***serve Him only***; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."<sup>4</sup> So the children of Israel ***put away the Baals and the Ashtoreths***, and served ***the LORD only***.

**3. Publicly acknowledging our sins**

5 And Samuel said, "Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you."<sup>6</sup> So they gathered together at Mizpah, drew water, and poured it out before the LORD. And they fasted that day, and said there, "***We have sinned against the LORD.***" And Samuel ***judged the children of Israel at Mizpah.***

**4. Turning to God for deliverance in our fear**

7 Now when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel had gathered together at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines ***went up against Israel***. And when the children of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines.<sup>8</sup> So the children of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to ***cry out to the LORD our God for us***, that ***He may save us*** from the hand of the Philistines."

**5. Engaging in liturgical warfare.**

9 And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. Then Samuel cried out to the LORD ***for Israel***, and the LORD answered him.<sup>10</sup> Now ***as Samuel was offering*** up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. ***But the LORD thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel.***

**6. Not stopping at worship, putting our worship into action, engaging in non-liturgical warfare.**

11 And the men of Israel ***went out of Mizpah*** and pursued the Philistines, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car.<sup>12</sup> Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us."

**7. Remaining diligent to maintain the victory**

13 So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

**8. Thanking God for the resulting blessings**

**Conclusion** - Back to Luke 13