

**Recap of 1/18/26 message by Pastor Joe Ricchuiti
("Winning the Battle") 2 Samuel 10:1-11:27"**

1. Dealing successfully with temptation:

- Don't underestimate the power of our sin nature and our capacity for sin (Gal. 6:1).
- Don't make a place for sin in our lives, especially in our thought-life.
- Be aware of your emotions, attractions, etc.
- Avoid, as much as possible, situations that cause temptation.
- Seek to align our thoughts with God's Word in the area of our weakness.
- Count the cost, if we should give in to temptation, what will it do to our family, church, God's reputation?
- When the time of testing comes, don't wait or debate, but flee.
- Ask, "Where is erosion taking place in my spiritual life?" Where am I sliding spiritually away from God."
- "Where are we setting ourselves up for future heartache but ignoring danger signs in the present?

2. David thus secured all the borders of Israel and expanded them far beyond what they had been under Saul. Generally speaking, the days that followed were peaceful and prosperous for David and his people. But, as David was to learn, sometimes the greatest test of our spiritual health and strength comes not in days of adversity but in days of prosperity." Success, prosperity leave us vulnerable to taking credit for what God has done. It's easy to neglect spiritual disciplines.

- More dangerous than the threat from Saul is the danger of success, power, prosperity and prestige.

3. Satan is a master at taking the blessings of God and turning them into something that brings a curse instead. If given a chance, he'll convince you to seek the pleasures of sex outside the bonds of marriage...to exchange the worship of the Creator for the worship of the creation...to substitute what is convenient for what is obedient."