**Psalm 20 (Matthew 12)**

The Fight For Our Nation

**2—TWO MAJOR BATTLES**

**Psalm‬**

**Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV)** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

**Matthew 12:25 (NLT)** Jesus knew their thoughts and replied, “Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed. A town or family splintered by feuding will fall apart.

* The most obvious battle we’re facing is for the unity of people of The United States
  + Among normal societal differences, there are two completely incompatible worldviews, which when coupled with our democratic form of government, cause our nation to be vulnerable to collapse.
  + One of our great and spiritual founding fathers, John Adams, said this:
    - “Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”
    - In other words, as Americans continue to denounce God and ignore His moral standards … instead of seeking freedom from sin through God, they seek freedom from God to sin … then this “government of the people, by the people and for the people” begins collapsing, because the people themselves have become corrupt.

**Psalm 53:1 (NKJV)** The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity; There is none who does good.

**ON THE CONTRARY**

**Psalm 111:10 (NIV84)** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

* + Though the Republican Party’s platform is known for its outspoken recognition of God, religious liberties and the life of the unborn, it is also well known that there are many God-fearing people in the Democratic Party who feel they must stand on that side of the aisle for things like justice, compassion and equality.
* And this brings us to the second, and I believe more consequential, battle:
* The battle for the unity of the body of Christ

**2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV)** if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

**Matthew 18:19–20 (NKJV)** “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. **20** For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

* This is a big reason why the whole New Testament admonishes us to fight for our agreement.

**Romans 15:5–6 (NKJV)** Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, **6** that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Philippians 1:27 (NIV84)** Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel.

**Philippians 2:2 (NKJV)** fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

**1 Peter 3:8 (NKJV)** Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous;

**Ephesians 4:1–3 (NKJV)** I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, **2** with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, **3** **endeavoring** to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

* But to a large extent, we don’t agree or have one mind
* While we’re fighting for our nation, we’re in discord with one another

**Amos 3:3 (NKJV)** Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

**Matthew 5:23–25 (NKJV)** Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, **24** leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. **25** Agree with your adversary quickly…

* Though not everyone will be reconciled, some will … even some who have fallen into compromise

**Jude 22–23 (NLT)** And you must show mercy to those whose faith is wavering. **23** Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgment. Show mercy to still others, but do so with great caution, hating the sins that contaminate their lives.

**Bottom line: we need to battle in prayer for our nation, and even more fervently for the unity of the body of Christ**

**Let’s stop and pray now…**