

# The Tactics of War Part 3: Run

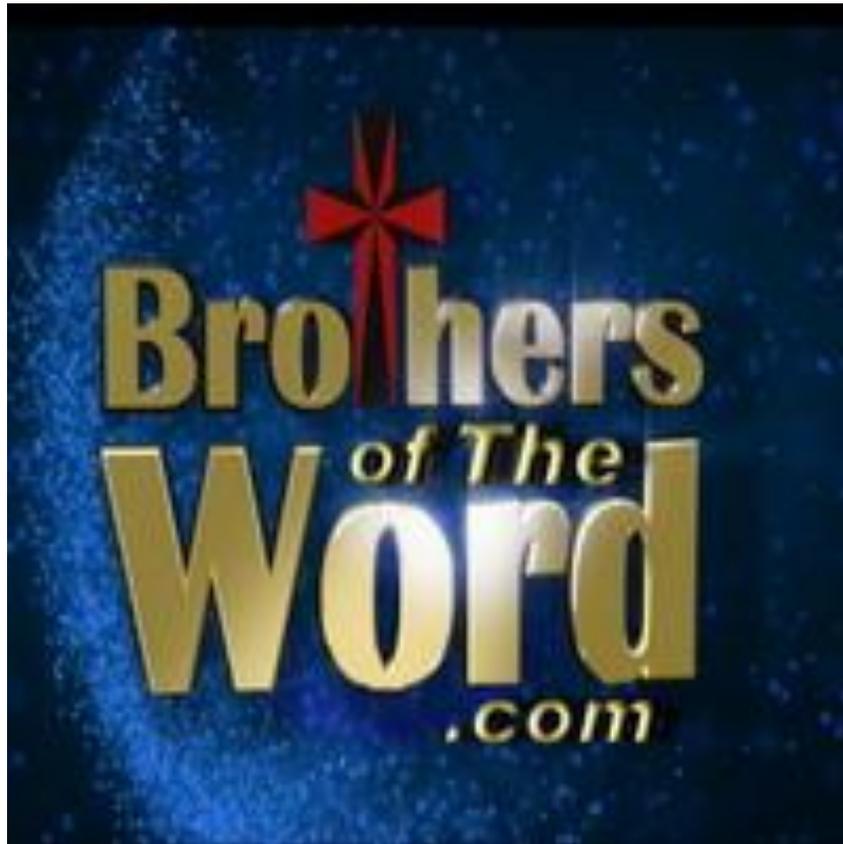
Sermon Title: **The Tactics of War Part 3 - Run**

Sermon Number: **5827**

Speaker: **Nathaniel Bronner**

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Nathaniel Bronner: The worst battle in the world is the fight about you shouldn't have been fighting in the first place.

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(Music Playing: 00:00:21 - 00:00:49)

And now for 5827, "The Tactics of War Part 3 - Run."

Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome to Brothers of the Word, because brother, you need the word. And today, I am at part 3 of a series called, "The Tactics of War."

I just finished prior series called "Peace" and I went straight from peace into war because so much about our life is sometimes a vacillation between times of peace and times of struggle, war, and trials and tribulation.

And I ask those of you in first message on "The Tactics of War" to go back and listen to a series of four sermons that I preached 12 years ago called the "The Case for War". And it gives you an entirely different perspective than what I will preach on "The Tactics of War," but people we are in a war. We are in a war every single day. We fight against all kind of things so go to Brothers of the Word, do a sermon search put in "The Case for War" and listen to those four sermons.

Now, the first tactic, after the introduction of "The Tactics of War," the first tactic was simply to make peace. The battle bed is never fought that you can make peace with this often your best battle.

And today I want to deal with the second tactic. The second tactic in "The Tactics of War" is simply to run. Now, some people may not think that it is a very brave tactic, but it is often a wise tactic. There is an old saying that goes, "He who fights and runs away, lives to fight another day, but he who fights and is slain, will never rise to fight again".

So, sometimes we have to run away from a situation to survive the battle. To do the right thing, it is our tactic of war. It is often

called, “A Strategic Retreat”. You do not have to call it just “running” in military terms, but a strategic retreat is just “running”.

And sometimes, when you see a situation that you can’t handle, you just need to run. And there are instances in the Bible where you just need to run.

And I want to use the acronym of R-U-N to stand for three things for you to remember when you’re facing a situation that you feel you might not be able to win. In RUN, the R simply means to remove yourself from the situation.

Well, that can mean to run, to hightail out of there, strategic retreat, whatever you want to call it, but to remove yourself from the situation. Because sometimes people we face stuff that to be honest about it, we just can’t handle, temptation is like that. And we face things of the flesh, we face things that are often brought to us from flesh or from satanic forces. And to be honest about, we just can’t handle it.

There was once a young man, he asked his preacher when he thought he would be mature enough to withstand temptations of the flesh. And the preacher paused and thought for a few seconds, and then he answered, “I wouldn’t trust myself until I have been dead for three days.”

You know, temptation of the flesh is an ongoing thing. You don’t ever get to old to be tempted by something. And the classical biblical story of running from temptation is of course Joseph. And if you thought that Desperate Housewives have some good episodes, the story of Joseph trumps almost in a Desperate Housewives story. I wanted to just read you this, Genesis Chapter 39 as a new living translation version.

When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Ishmaelite traders, he was purchased by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer. Potiphar was captain of the guard for favor of the king of Egypt. The Lord was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master. Potiphar noticed this and realized that the Lord was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did.

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This pleased Potiphar. So, he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned. From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master's household and property, the Lord began to bless Potiphar's household for Joseph's sake. All his household affairs ran smoothly and his crops and livestock flourished.

So, Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn't worry about a thing except what kind of food to eat. You don't not ask a serious manager to (00:05:41), when you can put them over everything you got, and the bible says, "Potiphar, the only thing he worried about what he's going to have for breakfast, lunch and dinner."

So, Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn't worry about a thing except what kind of food to eat. Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man. And Potiphar's wife soon began to look at him lustfully. "Come and sleep with me.", she demanded, but Joseph refused. "Look", he told her, "My master trusts me with everything in his entire household. No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing. It would be a great sin against God." She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day after day. But he refused to sleep with her and he kept out of her way as much as possible.

One day, however, no one else was around when he went in to do his work, she came and grabbed him by his cloak demanding, "Come on, sleep with me." Joseph tore himself away but he left his cloak in her hand as he ran from the house. Joseph was a little more than 17 years old when he ran from Potiphar's wife. He was thirty when he became second in charge in Egypt.

So, the time gap between when he left his cloak and literally ran naked out of the house until he became second only to favor in Egypt was 13 years. I told you this morning about miracle lotion(ph). The time when he brought God, he (00:07:24) it was 2006. It's now 13 years later.

Sometimes, it takes time for your right stuff to manifest in some results. And often we give up. We want to stop. We wanted just to throw in the towel and we give in to temptation because at 10 years, we'll say, "Lord, it's been too long."

Do you know where Joseph was at 10 years? He's in jail. So, he'd gone through all of these stuffs and yet he'd stayed strong, but he had to run because he could not stand and face Potiphar's wife. Do you know it's just hard to stand there and look at a pretty naked woman and hold up?

It is hard to do because sooner or later, you know it's just hard to do. Sooner or later, you are going to fall. Your resistance is going down. See, I have an issue like that with sweets right now. It's my biggest food down form, and I just can make it looking at sweet. I just can't do it. So, what I have to do, I have to remove all sweets from my presents. I have to get them out of the house. I have to get them out of the office. I have to get them out of my car. So, if I want some sweets, I got to go out of the way to get it because I'm sitting, looking at a Mr. Goodbar or a piece of German chocolate cake or something, I'm just not going to make it.

I can make it for a day or two but on the third day, that Goodbar are going to rise up. So, I just won't make it. So, you have to learn and see that is one of the things, I have to remove myself from, I have to run.

And some us is, "I'm strong. Hey, bald man, I'm strong." Now, there are some things I am strong with. There are some things I have absolutely no temptation. You can leave a whole carton of cigarettes down my desk for 20 years and there's going to be no problem.

I have no temptation with that. It's the stuff I am tempted with this issue. And see that's a problem that's sometimes church folk run into. We judge folk on bare weakness and our strength. We judge folk on bare weakness and our strength. That's a shame, they're doing now.

That's just a shame because we are strong in that area. But we don't judge folk in that area where we just have a massive battle, where we just feel last night. We don't just judge folk in that. So,

when you're dealing with something and you're facing something that is often either more tenacious or stronger than you.

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What I mean by more tenacious, the Mr. Goodbar is not stronger than I am, but it's more tenacious. I can stand up with Mr. Goodbar, looking at Mr. Goodbar for a solid hour and resist that Goodbar for a solid hour. But the problem is, after that hour, it's still standing strong. The next day, it's still standing strong. The next week, it's still standing strong. And the problem is when it is something that you have a weakness towards, after time, your knees start shaking. So, when there are things and you know these things will bring you down, and you know eventually, you will fall, you just have to run. You have to get out from around it.

We have so many different things in the world. I want you to play the video. This is a video. One of the things that often me faces just even pornography, and this what this young man had to do with pornography.

(Video Playing: 00:11:07 - 00:11:19)

It's present and so much, it's free now, it's everywhere, it's on the computer, it's on the phone.

(Video Playing: 00:11:25 - 00:11:39)

Now, look familiar to anybody?

(Video Playing: 00:11:40 - 00:12:02)

Now, strike the pornography from your mind, just think what are you would be doing, and you put it at there, "What are you be doing?"

You may not have a problem with porn, but you got to --

(Video Playing: 00:12:14 - 00:12:21)

Some of you just friend chicken.

(Video Playing: 00:12:24 - 00:13:43)

Now, I know some of you may think, “Lord, I can’t just bust up my computer like that.” I can’t just take my phone and throw it on the ground and stomp it into pieces. You may think that’s crazy, but I want you to remember what Jesus said, Matthew 5:29: And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

So, Jesus said, “Look, there could be something that’s tempting you, that’s bothering you, that’s offending you,” he said, “Pluck your eye out, cut your hand off.” That’s a whole lot worse. Then turn it off your computer or turn it off your phone or giving them both up. But sometimes, you have to just remove your self from the situation because there are things that you cannot handle if you continually face them.

I’ve actually known people who (00:14:56), “I just had my internet service cut off.” You made it before the internet.

00:15:00

You made it before cellphones. So, it’s not like you just cannot survive without them, you’ve gotten addicted to them. And it has your heart, it has your mind, it has your spirit, and often, it has your body. So, you can’t cut the stuff off. So, sometimes we think and you recognizing this thing, you’re stronger than I am. You don’t need to run from it. So, run is the first tactic.

Second tactic with the R for “remove yourself,” U is you need to simply “unattached yourself” to somethings. Sometimes, there are some situations that you cannot run from the situation but you can unattached yourself.

Luke 9:5 says this: And if a town refuses to welcome you, shake its dust from your feet as you leave to show that you have abandoned these people to their fate. There are some situations, some people that you cannot change. You got some relative, you got some co-workers, and some church folk and then you don’t need to change for them and you know it.

Sometimes, you just have to unattached yourself, and even if you have a co-worker that you cannot change, you have to unattached yourself, so your spirit does not get corrupted. What you do is just provide the example.

But you don't have to do all the mixing in and (00:16:21). Have you ever talked to some folk, every time you leave you upset? There are folks like that. And you know before you start talking with them, every time you leave them folk, they going to have you upset. You know that beforehand. But yet, there's something in you, "I going to get them next time."

And every time you leave, your blood pressure is up. You now have no peace. You need to unattached to them. And the thing about it, even if you do win the argument, you haven't really converted them. They just wait on the next time when they can win.

So, there are some people, there are some situations you need to simply unattached yourself from. If you can't completely remove yourself from the situation, you can detach your mind and your spirit and your conversation and your interaction so that you do not wrap your spirit up with something where you know you can't.

Look people, God could not change everybody, Jesus could not change everybody. Not only could God and Jesus not change everybody, they couldn't change most of the folk. Read your bible/ They couldn't change most of the folk. So, if God couldn't change most of the folk, if Jesus couldn't change most of the folk, what make you think you're going a change everybody?

There are simply some people you cannot change. And there are some circumstances you cannot change. So, you're going to have some situations where you need to just remove yourself. You need to run, you need to retreat, you need to get out of that situation and you need to get away from that situation. There are other situations where you just need to unattached yourself from the situation, so that you are not involved in it, your spirit, your mind and everything is not messed up by, you just unattached yourself if you can't get away from it. You unattached yourself.

And there are ways to do that where you are not so distressed and in keep your peace. So, you unattached yourself. And then the final one, it's actually an "N," phonetically but it's not spelled that way. That's simply to, "Kneel."

And what do you mean, "kneel," Pastor? I simply mean that you have to submit yourself to the situation. For example, if you're at a job and it's your boss, you can't get in a battle with your boss if you're going to win. That's just the bottom-line, you'll get fired.

So, you can't get in a battle with your boss, that you're going to win, you have to learn how to kneel or simply submit to some situation. It's like the government. Taxes are too high. Gas prices are too high. I don't mean to fussing about that? You can't change some things and some of the things you're going to be under that authority and then nothing you won't be able to do about it.

You don't pay your taxes, now they have some organizations that claimed you don't have to pay taxes. Most of them folk in jail. So, I would not -- you know, we had a famous movie actor. He was a member. When he's in jail, they hadn't seen him in a movie since. So, I'm not saying that it's right but what I am saying is this. If it's not your sure mission to particularly battle that thing, you just need to kneel under that.

Do you have to do what -- Jesus said, "Render unto Caesar what he sees us." He didn't say "Don't pay your taxes." He didn't say, "Complain about your taxes." He said to a man out and get a coin at the fish's mouth to pay the taxes.

So, don't fuss about the taxes. Don't fuss about the gas prices because you can't do anything about it. Worry as you can't. You can't buy you an economy car. See most of the folk fuss them at the gas prices going to a big haul.

So, you can do something but it's nothing you can do about the gas prices themselves. So, when we learn to simply kneel to some situations. When we went to Los Angeles on the art mission trip and worked there in the neighborhood, I had two assignments where I had to kneel under authority.

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The first, we went to a lady's house and we cleaned up her house, cleaned up her yard. See, Elijah just laughing it, because she just had -- I mean that lady had all the stuff. Did she have some stuff -- see, Elijah, she had all this stuff. She was basically a hoarder, but she had all these old magazines and she instructed, "Don't touch that. Don't move that. Don't move that root out. Just dig around that, but don't remove that root. So, were out working in a yard, working and clean up her stuff. This was a situation where I had to kneel to the authority of this lady.

Now, I was looking at this stuff. I said, "Lady, these magazines got mold on it. You need to throw this stuff in the trash can. This tree needs all its weeds and roots pulled out. As a matter fact, you need to remove that old tree. That's why my -- but it wasn't my house. And I was there to serve her.

So, both -- see Elijah. Even though we look at it all this mess, and said, "All this mess need to be thrown away. There's no need to keeping all this mess with all this hoarding." Both of us kneel down and we did what that lady asked us to do.

Our second mission, I worked on construction. And we were working in a building and they had to put vinyl baseboard around the edge of the wall. And as a matter of fact, one of the members here, Mr. Stinchcomb, who is a contractor. I was working with him on the project and Mr. Stinchcomb said, "We're supposed to cut this baseboard when it goes around corners." And the (00:21:32) he said, "Yes, we are." But the man who is paying for didn't want it like that.

He said, "The man who is paying for it didn't want it like that. We ain't going to do it like that. And Mr. Stinchcomb said, "You're absolutely right." That's one thing I learned in construction, whoever is paying for it, the way they want it, is the way it's going to be. (00:21:53). So, you've got to learn when there is a situation. So, I learned how to put vinyl baseboard down the wrong way.

I learned how to do it the wrong way but I was under two successful contractors who understood a principle. You learn to submit to authority if they are paying for the job, how they want it whether you think is right or not, whether you think is ugly or

not, if they are paying for the job, you need to do what they say to do.

So, I put that baseboard down. Mr. Stinchcomb put that baseboard down. The other contractor put that baseboard down. Cut around that corner, when (00:22:31) cut the way the man wanted it.

Some of us need to learn, we don't need to fight, we need to kneel because it's not our position. It's like that with children and parents. You know, children not wonder what they better say. Wife don't want to do with the husband say? Somebody say, "Amen." And then men don't want to do what God says.

So, we've got disobedience from authority to come all the way down. And sometimes you just got to learn to kneel when there is an authority that is placed over you. And it will keep you out of a whole lot of needless battles that you have no business fighting, because the worst battle in the world is the fight about you shouldn't have been fighting in the first place. And that really gets you to tore up, and sometimes we're so combatted with just so much stuff. We just want a conflict after conflict after conflict, and you learn how with some things is just best to run. To remove yourself, to unattached yourself and to kneel.

When you learn these principles, when you analyze the situation, it's one of the prime tactics of war is strategic retreat and submission.

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