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Sermon Title: **Winning The External Wars Yet Losing The Internal Battles**

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Glendon Francis: Sometimes we have to step out by faith and do that which God has called us to do and sometimes we have to step out and face our fears.

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Automated Voice: And now for 6517, Winning The External Wars Yet Losing The Internal Battles.

Glendon Francis: Welcome to Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word.

My topic today is Winning The External Wars Yet Losing The Internal Battles. Winning The External Wars Yet Losing The Internal Battles. And for introduction, we all have a private and public life. The public life is the action we take and the activities that we participate in that are known by all, that's the public life. The private life is the action we take and the activities we participate in that nobody knows unless we tell them.

We can have a stellar public life such as a successful athletic pastoral business or other carriers that are applauded by the general public but privately, we are struggling with issues that we guard and keep under lock and chain so that they do not come to the surface.

But sooner or later one must face the challenges of one's private life in order for one to enter fully into God's blessings and God's promises, because it is said that whatever you do in darkness will come to light. And so, this transitions us or this brings us into the life of Moses. This brings us into the life of Moses. Amen.

As many of you probably know, Moses was a renowned and respected leader. He was the one who led the children of Israel out of the Egyptian captivity. He was the one who faced Pharaoh. He was the one who provided, through the help of God, water for the people when they were thirsty and there was no water. He

was the one who asked God for mana to feed the people when they had no food.

So, simply, Moses was having a lot of external victories that one could see visible with their naked eyes, but Moses had a lot of battles that he was struggling with internally and he never adequately dealt with these battles that he was facing and ultimately the battles that he did not deal with cost him a place in the Promised Land.

Now, in the book of Exodus, Exodus Chapter 3, if you got your bible, Exodus Chapter 3, "God called Moses" and in Chapter 3 in Verse 1, "God appeared to Moses in a burning bush and Moses turned around to see what was going on and God told him that I want you to go and deliver the children of Israel."

And basically, Moses was arguing with God, who am I that Pharaoh is going to listen to me and who am I to go to the children of Israel and tell them that God has sent me, what should I say and God told him, "Tell him that I am that I am have sent you and I will harden Pharaoh's heart."

God gave him all the assurance that he needed to go and do the task that God that has called him to do. However, he had a lot of doubt and he had a lot of questions. Now, in Chapter 3 in Verse 9 he says, "Now therefore, behold the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me and I have also seen the oppression wherein the Egyptian oppress them."

So, God says that I have heard what my people are going through and I see that they are oppressed and God says, "Come now therefore and I will send thee unto Pharaoh that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt."

So, God called him and said, come on let us go, let us do this. And Moses said unto God, who am I? Who am I that I should go unto Pharaoh and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt. So, he had a lot of doubt, self-doubt. Who am I? He is questioning his own ability and he was not just questioning his own ability to find answer to say that, "Okay, let me see where are my insufficiencies are so I can improve on it so I can go do that which God has called me to do."

That was not the question. He was saying basically, “I don’t see myself worthy. I am not capable of doing that which you asked of me to do.”

But God himself says early at that he -- let’s look at Verse 12. “And he said, certainly, I will be with thee and this shall be a token unto thee that I have sent thee. When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.”

And Moses said unto God, there’s a reason I know why I brought this glass -- okay, there it is. “And Moses said unto God, behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and they asked me who is thee that sent me and God said, tell them that I am that I am have sent thee.”

And so, Moses was basically arguing with God and God gave him all the assurances that he needed. Now, in Chapter 4, God was still there trying to convince Moses, it is okay for you to go. It’s okay for you to do this and Moses was still there arguing with God. I want to go, I want to do this but I’m not capable of doing it.

Now, look at Chapter 4 Verse 1. “And Moses answered and said, but, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice for they will say, the Lord hath not appeared unto thee. And the Lord said unto him, what is that in thine right hand? and he said, a rod. And God said throw it down and the rod turned into a snake. And God said, take it up by the tail and it turned back into rod and he still did not believe and God says, put your hand in your stomach. He put it in his stomach, pull it out and it was made leprous and God said, put it back in and it was made whole.”

At Verse 8 then he says, “And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign. And it shall come to pass, if they shall not believe.”

Verse 9, “Also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it out and things shall happen.”

And so, God was giving him the assurance that he needed to go and do what God had told him to do. Eventually, Moses got to the point in which Moses said, you know what God, send somebody else. Send somebody else to do this. I am not capable of doing it. And God got angry with him. He said, "Lord God, you know what, I am not eloquent, I cannot -- I-I am stuttering, I just cannot do this."

And so, we find Moses struggling internally with issues that later on came around to haunt him and stopped him in his track to do that which God has called him to do. Now, he lacked the courage to do what God has called him to do. In the book of Numbers. Numbers Chapter 13, God told Moses to send spies in the land to spy out the land. And so the 12 spies went in to the land to spy out the land and they came back with bad report that there were giants in the land.

But two of the spies came back with good report and said, "Hey, we can take the land." The people there started to grumble to like, "They are giants, this cannot happen." There were only two of these spies that came back and say, "Hey, you know what, we can do this, we can take it, we believe God. We trust God."

The people started to murmur. Two of the spies rose up, Joshua and Caleb and said, "We are going to do this." But notice something, Moses was nowhere to be found. If Moses was a leader that he should have been, it should have not been Joshua or Caleb that should be telling the people, "Let's go, we can do this." It should have been Moses.

But the bible tells us that Moses and Aaron, they fell on their faces before the congregation. Now, there is a time for you to pray, but there is also a time for you to get up and demonstrate leadership. Now, here is a problem. Moses did not deal with this internal issue.

In Exodus Chapter 3, when God called him and said, "Hey Moses go do this." He was not courageous enough. He was not brave enough. He did not believe God. He doubted God. And this followed Moses all the way after he delivered the children of Israel across the Red Sea and all that God did. This character flaw as it were plagued Moses because he never dealt with it. He never dealt with it.

Just because you are ignoring the internal battles do not mean that they are going to go away. There are things that our husbands don't know about us or our wives don't know about us and other people don't know about us that need to be dealt with.

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If we are going to take our life to the next step, if we are going to be a better wife, a better husband, a better leader, a better manager, a better supervisor. There are things within our private life that has to be dealt with in order for our hearts to take our life or our career or profession to the next level. Moses never did any such thing. So here it is now, a chance for him as it were to redeem himself and to show leadership. He was there bowing before the people, he said nothing.

So that tells me that he never dealt with his internal battles. He never dealt with the issues that he should have dealt with in the Book of Exodus and it followed him all the way. Also, in the book up to Numbers Chapter 28, God brought them to a place where there was no water and God told Moses, "Look, this is what I want you to do. Moses, I want you to speak to the rock." And Moses got angry, and what did he do? He struck the rock. So, not only did he have a confidence issue, not only was he struggling internally with doubt, but he also had an anger issue.

Now, go back to Exodus Chapter 32, God gave Moses the 10 Commandments and Moses was coming down with the 10 Commandments. He and Aaron and they heard the people -- they are like they were singing and dancing but they are actually worshipping other Gods. And so, when Moses came and Moses saw what was happening, Moses got Angry and Moses threw down the two tablets and broke the two tablets because the Bible says that he was very, very, very angry. And so, what he did, he allowed his anger to take hold of him and did something that he should not have done.

Winning the external wars, yet losing the internal battles. You have people who have built their career, you have people who have built their kingdom, you have people who are professional athlete, you have people who are pastors, you have people who are priests. Later on in life is being revealed some of them molested children, some of them did this, and some of them did that.

And nobody knew that these people were practicing these things in private but you see, they had a good public life. They were winning the external wars but they were secretly losing the internal battles. You have people who are struggling with alcoholism, you have people who are struggling with sexual addiction, you have people who are struggling with issues after issue, but the problem is, a lot of people are not stopping to really take inventory of themselves to resolve these problems.

As long as they are in the public eyes, you have pastors who have mega churches that are struggling with issues that nobody knows within the congregation until 20 years later, 15 years later, it is revealed that this pastor was doing this and this pastor was doing that. Our professional athlete, our musician, our whomever.

Because people are winning the external wars but people are equally losing the internal battles and that's what Moses was faced with. Seemingly, he was a great leader, parted the Red Sea, did all that, provided food, called upon God, fire came down from heaven. But Moses was struggling with internal issues that nobody knew about but Moses himself.

And when the time came for Moses to step up to the plate and demonstrate true leadership, he could not have done it because of the internal issues that he was having, the internal struggles that he was having that he did not deal with, that he was struggling with.

You cannot be the husband that God has called you to be if there are things there that your wife or your spouse does not know about that would let you do stuff that you should not do, let you go places that you should not be going to, let you come home late and try to hide it and cover it up as much as you can. One day, these things shall come out.

You cannot be the best wife that ought to be if there are internal issues, or battles that you are struggling -- and everybody has some internal issues that they are struggling with. But the key to it that you have to face it. You cannot always run away from it because even though you are running away from it, it's not going away.

Because wherever you go in life, you take one person with you and that's you. And if there are demons within the closet, if there are things that you are struggling with and you are not dealing with it, they are going to hunt you. They will prevent you from going to the next level. They will prevent you from entering into your promises, they will prevent you from entering into your blessings. God says to Moses, "Because you do not obey me."

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When God spoke to him and said "Moses, speak to the rock." And Moses got angry and struck the rock because he was saying that the people are rebelling. And Moses struck the rock and you know what God said to him? "You shall not enter into the Promised Land, you will not go there because of your disobedience, because you did not honor me in front of the people, you will not enter into the Promised Land."

Now, can you imagine living your life all this time 20, 30 years hoping to see something, doing everything that you can do to make sure that you see or you accomplish that what you want to accomplish. And at the end of your life, you are locked away, you are kept away from that which you have worked all your life for.

You know, the "Me Too" movement that is going on now. There are people who have built their empire and did things 20 years ago. The struggles that they were having and now it's like they are going to jail because there were internal battles, private battles that they were struggling with that nobody knew about. And 20 years after, we see these people on TV, big celebrities, and we adored them from afar but we don't know them and we don't know what they are faced with and we don't know what they are struggling with.

And many of us want to be these people but you don't know the internal battles that they are struggling with, that they are not dealing with. And the key to it is that you have to face it. You cannot run away from it. You have to face it. It may not be something big or gigantic, it may just be something small that you have to deal with because it will keep you from entering into your Promised Land.

Let me share something with you, Deuteronomy Chapter 3. I'm just getting started, I'm warming up now. Deuteronomy Chapter

3, Verse 23 this is Moses but let me read from Verse 22. “Ye shall not fear them: for the Lord your God he shall fight for you.” This is Moses, “And I besought the Lord, all that time, saying, O Lord God, thou hast begun to shew thy servant thy greatness, and thy mighty hand: for what God is there in heaven or in earth, that can do according to thy works, and according to thy might? I pray thee, let me go over, and see the good land that is beyond Jordan, that goodly mountain, and Lebanon. But the Lord was wroth with me for your sakes, and would not hear me: and the Lord said unto me, “Let it not(ph) suffice thee; speak no more unto me of this matter.”

See, probably after years Moses was like, “You know, maybe God have forgotten about this now, so let me go, I’ll ask God if God would forgive me and help me out and give a second chance.” And God said, “You know what? Don’t even address this anymore, don’t even talk about. I’ve made my decision.” You see, God is the final judge and he has the final say in everything.

We can cover up, we can mask, we can do everything, camouflage it, but God sees everything and it does not make sense for us to try to cover up and hide from God. Because at the end of the day God is going to have the final say. And God told Moses, “Look, I will take you into Mount Nebo and I will allow you to look at the land and I will let you see the land but you shall die in this mountain.” That’s tough. This is the guy that led them all the way out of Egypt.

This is the guy that was there with them, through their struggles, through their fight, but you see, disobedience is disobedience. God’s will is God’s will. You cannot have it both ways. You cannot have it your way, not (00:18:43) it doesn’t work like that. It has to be God’s way. And so, Moses pleaded with God, “God please, give me a second chance.” You know, it’s like you mess up, your wife found you cheating, your husband found you cheating and they give you a chance, a first chance, a second chance.

And at the 10th time, no, I ain’t going to go that long, who am I kidding? The second or third time, your gone, that’s it. You are gone, you are out of here, hit the road Jack! God said, he had the anger issue and he never dealt with it. Because when God gave him the stone, the tablets, and he threw it down and broke it. He could have said, “You know what man, let me go get counselling(ph).” He never did that.

I know when God told him to speak to the rock, man that guy used the rod and hit the rock like -- God said, "You know what Moses, you're not learning anything here. And because I told you to speak to the rock and you hit the rock, you will not go into the Promised Land."

Now, how do I overcome my internal battles? You tell me all these things, but how do I get past that? Look at the example of Joshua, Joshua was Moses' right-hand man, he succeeded Moses. Now when it was time for Joshua to lead, Joshua was like, "Look, as for me and my house, I know who you people are."

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It cost Moses the Promised Land because of you all, it ain't going to happen to me and my family as for me and my house, we're going to serve God. You ain't going to rob me of my blessing. I see what you all did to Moses. Moses vanished in the mountain but as for me and my house, we are going to do right by God. If it seems right, choose you this day whom you will serve. Jesus says this in the Book of Luke. Luke Chapter 9 Verses 20 to 22. Jesus says "If any man is going to fall on me, let him deny himself, take up the cross and follow me."

For you to have victory over your doubt, over your feeling of inferiority, over your lack of courage, you have to deny yourself. You have to not give in to your negative emotions. You have to tell yourself, "Look, I am fearfully and wonderfully made, therefore, I will bless God. I am going to do what God tells me to do irrespective of all I fear or all I'm thinking. It's not about my feeling." Jesus says you got to deny that. You are going to take up the cross and you are going to follow me.

And Joshua said the same thing. It is a daily thing. He said, choose you this day, choose you this day, what you are going to do. Who are going to follow? Jesus said, you have to take up your cross daily. So, it's not victory that you are going to have overnight. It's not going to come overnight. It's not going to be an act that you do one time and forget about it.

Your anger issue is not going to disappear. Your lack of courage is something that you have choose to do every day. You have to deny yourself. You have to have self-discipline. You cannot have

doubt about what God called you to do. You have to go in this thing to 100%. You have to hit 100%.

If not, we could be like Moses. God brings us to the mountaintop and show us all that we could have. All these could have been yours only if you just deal with your internal battles. If only you have the courage and strength to deal with your internal battles, all these can be yours.

If only you have the honesty. If only you have the dignity, the integrity, the character to say you know what, this is an issue and it's a problem and I need to stop and I need to deal with it. You can blame whomever you want to blame. You can blame whatever you want to blame. But God does not play that game because at the end of the day, it is you who is not going to enter into your promises.

At the end of the day, it is you who is going to enter into your blessings. At the end of the day, it is going to be you. It's not going to be your husband, your wife, your child, your friend, it is going to be you and you have to deal with you. You cannot run away from your internal battles.

The best public life winning all the public awards there are within your life. You can get all the accolades and people pray but you know what you face with your worst fear. When you go home and you turn off that light and it's dark and you know the demons and whatever you have to face and you have to deal with it and you do not have time to keep postponing it, put it off, because the longer you put it off, the more you are going to stay in that place of bondage. The longer you put it off, the more it's going to grow. The longer you put it off, the bigger problem is going to become in your life.

Moses never dealt with his insecurity. Moses never dealt with his fear. Moses never dealt with his doubt and it cost him. When it was time for him to step up when the spies were saying, and the people were murmuring and grumbling and say, "Hey," they even said to Moses, "You know what? We are going to choose a captain that would take us back to Egypt."

Are you kidding me? They were in bondage for 400 years. It always looks better to go back. But we always forget what it was

like back there. We always want to go back, but we don't remember what it was like back there.

And Moses did not come and say, "Look, I am making the final decision. I am going that way. I am not going that way. I am going that way and whoever wants to come, you come. Whoever wants to stay, you stay."

Moses never did that because to begin with, when God called him to lead the people, initially, he never stepped up to the plate as a man and say, "Yes, Lord, here I am." Like Joshua, he said, "Lord, send somebody else". And God said, "You know what, I'm going to send your brother to speak for you. I'm going to send your brother to hold your hand. That's your pacifier."

But sometimes, we have to step out by faith and do that which God has called us to do. And sometimes, we have step out and face our fears. Face our internal battles and deal with it so that they do not rob us from our Promised Land. So that they don't rob us from our blessings. So that we can be the best manager there is.

And I'm not just talking about skillful at what you do. I'm talking about your character. People can look at you and say, you know what, there is something different about this boss, this manager, this worker, this supervisor, and that's your character. That's fixed to your character and you can lead people by the way you behave at your workplace, by the way you live. And, God is calling us to be that kind of people in this time and in this moment.

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We cannot to be another Moses. We cannot afford to put in all the sweat and tears and all the hard work and all the labor and at the end of the day, we are being dragged off to jail. At the end of day, the Irish is coming to take away everything that we have built up. Because we never dealt with issues internally that we should have dealt. We keep putting it off, seems like I'm speaking to somebody today. He just --- I'm just keeping it real.

The only way we're going to grow is that we have to keep moving from one place to the other. We cannot stay to the same place and think that we are going to grow. Growth means change. Growth means progression. You've got to keep moving.

I am stronger today. I am better today. I'm a better man today, I am a stronger man today. Because, I 'm willing to deal with my issues. It's (00:26:15).

Had it not been for me, (00:26:18) would have had the best (00:26:20) there is. But it's not the other person. It's not the other person. You can get your inheritance. You can get your blessing. You can get into Promised Land. You can get into everything that God has for you. But you've got to deal with your internal battles. We can't continue putting it off. We have to stop and deal with it.

God bless you. Thank you for joining us in Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the Word.

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