



Dear Friends,

I have become a huge Lord of the Rings fan which I'm in the process of watching for the second time. Towards the end, just before the major fight scene, King Aragorn rides in front of the long line of soldiers and shouts this encouragement:

HOLD YOUR GROUND. HOLD YOUR GROUND. SONS OF GONDOR! OF ROHAN! MY BROTHERS! I SEE IN YOUR EYES THE SAME FEAR THAT WOULD TAKE THE HEART OF ME. A DAY MAY COME WHEN THE COURAGE OF MEN FAILS, WHEN WE FORSAKE OUR FRIENDS AND BREAK ALL BONDS OF FELLOWSHIP, BUT IT IS NOT THIS DAY. AN HOUR OF WOLVES AND SHATTERED SHIELDS WHEN THE AGE OF MEN COMES CRASHING DOWN, BUT IT IS NOT THIS DAY! THIS DAY WE FIGHT! BY ALL THAT YOU HOLD DEAR ON THIS GOOD EARTH, I BID YOU STAND, MEN OF THE WEST!

Could this be what our King Jesus is saying to us? Could he be shoring us up for the battle of our lives? I think he is. I think he is saying:

HOLD YOUR GROUND. HOLD THE GROUND THAT I PURCHASED FOR YOU WHEN I DIED ON THE CROSS IN YOUR PLACE. SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF KING JESUS! MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS! I SEE IN YOUR EYES THE FEAR THAT I CAME TO TAKE AWAY. A DAY MIGHT COME WHEN YOUR COURAGE SLIPS, WHEN YOU FORGET THAT I FREED YOU FROM SLAVERY TO SIN. BUT IT IS NOT THIS DAY. THIS DAY YOU WILL STAND YOUR GROUND. THIS DAY YOU WILL FIGHT THE EVIL WITHIN AND WITHOUT. BY THE INCOMPARABLE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, I BID YOU STAND. BE STRONG IN THE POWER OF THE LORD AND STAND!

Do you not feel the courage rising within you? Do you not sense Jesus commanding you forward in freedom and victory? I don't know what the issues are that you are facing. I don't know how long you have prayed for God to free you from them. I do know that God is able and willing to give you everything you need to stand strong against all evil, whether that evil is from within like unforgiveness and bitterness or lust and selfishness, or whether that evil is from without like substance abuse or human opposition. God has already won the battle. You can win.

I wish I could take each of your faces in my hands and look directly into your eyes and say, "God is for you. GOD is for you. God is for YOU! Take courage! Hold your ground!"

Revelation 19:11-16 (The Message) Then I saw Heaven open wide—and oh! a white horse and its Rider. The Rider, named Faithful and True, judges and makes war in pure righteousness. His eyes are a blaze of fire, on his head many crowns. He has a Name inscribed that's known only to himself. He is dressed in a robe soaked with blood, and he is addressed as "Word of God." The armies of Heaven, mounted on white horses and dressed in dazzling white linen, follow him. A sharp sword comes out of his mouth so he can subdue the nations, then rule them with a rod of iron. He treads the winepress of the raging wrath of God, the Sovereign-Strong. On his robe and thigh is written, King of kings, Lord of lords.

What a day that will be. What a day today is when God's people stand against evil!!

Blessings from Bev



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