

Title: Flee, Fight, Hold Fast Until the King Returns

Passage: 1 Timothy 6:11-16

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Draft Summary:

I. Hunt the King and die tired (V.11-12)

II. Hunt the king until He returns (v.13-16)

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?

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Passage:

1 Timothy 6:11-16

But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

EXPOSITION

Introduction

I. Hunt the King and die tired (V.11-12)

II. Hunt the king until He returns (v.13-16)

I. HUNT THE KING AND DIE TIRED (v.11-12)

1 Timothy 6:11-12

“But you, O man of God, flee from these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

But you, O man of God,

- “Hey, you - man of God!”
 - calling to attention
- “Man of God” - phrase used 68 times
 - Points to men selected by God to be used mightily.
- Paul charges Timothy: “you are God’s man.”

Hebrews 13:7-8

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

- “Remember your leaders” = Moses, Abraham, etc.

Four commands

1. flee from these things,

1 Timothy 6:3

If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness,

- Flee from what? Unsound and false teaching.

1 Timothy 6:4

he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions,

- Description of those into false teaching.

Flee

- how balance with prior writings of Paul where called to stand and resist?

Ephesians 6:13

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

James 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- We are to flee from fleshly passions

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

- in our flesh, we follow Satan.
- But we flee from danger and to safety found only in Jesus, our Savior.

2. and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, gentleness.

- “pursue” = persecute
 - Meaning = hunt with hunger

Matthew 5:6

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

- Contrast: the unrepentant feel satisfied in their own selves.
- But we in Christ we must hunger and thirst for righteousness.

What must we do?

righteousness, godliness,

- Open the Bible continuously to grow in righteousness and godliness.

Lamentations 3:40-41

Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the LORD! Let us lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven:

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- We live by faith in Jesus who loves us to death.
- Faith in He who is love.

faith, love,

- reveal who we believe and who we value

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- We are only justified before God in Christ.

1 John 4:19

We love because he first loved us.

perseverance, gentleness.

1 Peter 2:21-23

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

3. Fight the good fight of faith.

- “Fight” = agonize
- “Faith” = faithful God and the people who believe in God who never fails and never lies.

1 Timothy 1:15

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

1 Timothy 4:10

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

- Hymn: “Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus”
 - O for grace to trust Him more.
- Why fight / agonize?
 - In our flesh, we are prone to do the opposite (be passive, wander, be distracted)
 - Instead, we are to trust the Trustworthy King in His commands to do otherwise.

4. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

Take hold

- don't let go

The eternal life

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:36

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

John 5:24

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

John 5:39-40

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

John 6:40

For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

John 10:28

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

John 12:50

And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”

John 17:3

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

1 John 1:1-3

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Revelation 22:5

And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

- The eternal life is Christ Jesus the King and reigning with Him.

to which you were called,

- God calls us by His sovereign will.

2 Timothy 1:9

who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

II. HUNT THE KING UNTIL HE RETURNS (v.13-16)

1 Timothy 6:13-16

I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal might! Amen.

until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about at the proper time

- Prior commands: Flee...Pursue...Fight...Take hold
 - all point to Jesus and His Word.
 - Verb tense = present imperative = always doing.
- How long do it? Until Jesus returns.

which He will bring about at the proper time

- Jesus’ return is certain and will occur.
 - Not subject to change or the whims of time.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

- This is God ruling from heaven.
- Question: Are we listening or fearing?
 - What is allowed is by His design and purposes.
 - For His glory whether in time or for eternity. Trust in Him and His ways.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Isaiah 55:8-9

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

To Him be honor and eternal might! Amen.

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus...make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.