

Prophetic Word: The Enemy Will Relent

The alarm didn't sound. It went off; it lit my screen, beckoning me to stab and jab at the snooze button. But the alarm didn't sound. It stayed silent.

My eyes fluttered open, and I squinted at my phone. 6:20. I had 10 more minutes to rest. But those 10 minutes stretched. And they stretched. Finally, I checked the time again. 7:25.

I snapped into action, moving throughout the studio apartment in one fluid motion. *I'll buy coffee at The DEN*, I reasoned, grateful for the café on the first floor.

I threw a bowl of Quaker Oats banana nut instant oatmeal in the microwave. I'd pray for a miracle and attempt to eat it at traffic lights.

Only I stopped in my tracks, startled by the loud thud. Oatmeal exploded, coating the microwave and bubbling out the bowl. A split second decision was made—leave the mess and forfeit food.

To my dismay, the morning continued to spiral downward. When Spotify wouldn't connect to my car speakers, I had to choose: worship from my heart or rely on music.

Once at work, I found my sweet friend, Debra, desperate for a maternal touch and prayer. We prayed for grace to navigate the day well, in a way pleasing unto the Lord. I then heard colleagues' descriptions of evenings and mornings far worse than my own, and though recognizing the spiritual attack against our team for what it was, felt silly for my sour attitude.

I was blessed to grab lunch with a friend at Panera Bread.

Since I eat so slowly, I ordered ahead ... tacking a Madagascar vanilla cream cold brew and a Chocolate Chipper cookie onto that order. When I went to grab my order, I saw the coffee and cookie on the shelf, labeled "S Gregoire," but there was no soup or sandwich.

I approached the counter to ask about my meal, and the worker began to remake my order. I looped back around before she could finish, and my food was now bagged and ready to go in the pickup area—along with an unlabeled coffee I understood was for my order. When I opened the bag, there was also a second cookie there, tucked away with the rest of the order.

I ordered one coffee and one cookie, yet two had my name on it. I was able to share the extra sweet treat with my friend. In this, the Lord reminds me that not every mistake means destruction [insert any other negative word here]. Sometimes, mistakes can be sweet blessings, reminders that the Lord is keenly aware of our situations and what we face. We get to choose to trust Him in the hiccups of the day and to take Him at His Word: The weapon may be formed, but it won't prosper (Isa. 54:17), and the gates of hell will not prevail against us (Matt. 16:18). We are more than conquerors through Christ (Rom. 8:37), and we can do all things through the strength of Jesus (Phil. 4:13).

Whatever you face today and throughout the weekend, know that He has not forsaken you, and this is "Just July." Victory and justice belong to Jesus.

You've been in a battle. It's felt as though the enemy was winning; it looked like he was taking ground. But remember, in the kingdom, we walk by faith, not sight (2 Cor. 5:7).

The Lord says that justice is delivered at His hand. To walk into this victory, worship Him.

2 Chronicles 20 provides an account where an impossible battle met the Israelites. The Lord says, "Do not fear, nor be

dismayed because of this great army, for the battle is not yours, but God's" (2 Chron. 20:15b). However, the story doesn't stop there. Further, the people are instructed: "Do not fear or be filled with terror. Tomorrow, go out before them, and the Lord will be with you" (2 Chron. 20:17b). The people worshipped the Lord in humility and believed in the Lord and trusted in His prophets. The singers and worshippers went out. "When they began singing and praising, the Lord set ambushes against" their enemies, and the Israelites claimed victory in the battle.

It's not just another July, its "Just July." The enemy will relent, and it's time to reckon the righteous.

Isaiah 61:7-8a (AMP) says, "Instead of your [former] shame you will have a double portion; and instead of humiliation your people will shout for joy over their portion. Therefore in their land they will possess double [what they had forfeited]; Everlasting joy will be theirs. For I, the Lord, love justice."

Not every "mistake" is bad. We serve a God who loves to redeem what's broken and bring life to what's dead. Genesis 50:20 says that the very thing the enemy meant to harm you is what God will use not only for your good but the good of many others. He turns the weapon into a tool if you'll allow Him. Open the hand that clings to the offense and self-pity; surrender what's wrong to the Lord.

When the apostle Paul was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write to the Roman church about God's nature to work all things together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose (Rom. 8:28), he meant all things—not just some things or most things.

Even that missed alarm.

Or the inedible oatmeal.

When you can't connect your praise and worship to the car speaker, will you still connect it with your spirit? {eoa}

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