

Gideon's Army

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I. Introduction.

- A. The speaker will speak to four different groups.
- B. The speaker's goal out of high school was that each day would be enjoyable, but his life ambitions were not being fulfilled. (Proverbs 14:12)
- C. God satisfies the longing soul. Only after the speaker got acquainted with Christ was he fulfilled. (Psalm 107:9)
- D. Do not be satisfied with not finding complete fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

II. Group 1: those who have not had a regenerating encounter with Jesus Christ.

- A. The example of a depressed Norwegian who was convinced to search the Bible for something that "didn't insult his intelligence." He began trying to obey the golden rule, but was unable to do so. He found that Jesus was able to do this though, and was convinced to get in touch with Jesus.
- B. Jesus Christ is a very real and living person - not someone who has disappeared off the pages of history.
- C. A woman was unable to be convinced of Jesus' nonexistence because she claimed that she had been with him that morning.
- D. One of the greatest lawyers said there is more evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ than the presidency of George Washington.
- E. Discover Jesus Christ for yourself.

III. Group 2: those who know Christ that are not in the battle.

- A. The story of Gideon's army. (Judges 7)
 - 1. Gideon was charged with his army to battle against the Midianites.
 - 2. God told him Gideon to have those without a heart for the battle to leave. 132,000 departed and only 10,000 were left.
 - 3. Yet God said that there were too many. A majority when they saw water rushed towards it to drink, but they never took into account that there could have been Midianites waiting to ambush them. God said to send those home. 300 were left.
 - 4. With 300 remaining, God had them grab a bugle and a torch, and He spread them out in the Midianite encampment. The Midianites were confused in the darkness and they ended up destroying themselves. Not an Israelite was lost. Every man stood in his place.

B. The first group had no heart for the battle.

C. The second group had a heart for the battle, but their appetites undermined all their caution (Job 15:16). Satan is out to take advantage of men by attracting them away. (1 Timothy 2:24)

D. The example of a communist who claimed they would win because they were more like Gideon's army than Christians were.

E. We must develop the skill of God through the intake of the Word and the practice of prayer.

IV. Group 3: those who have been given a shepherd's heart. If God does this, you will never be content in something that is not fulltime ministry. (Jeremiah 3:15)

V. Group 4: Christians who will work as career laymen.

A. Historically, Christians in the military have been a mighty force.

1. The members of the British military spread John Wesley's message around the world.

2. The years after World War II, the number of missionaries doubled.

3. There is no more strategic place to serve Christ than in the armed forces.

B. Examples of men in the Air Force accomplishing what God wanted for them there.

C. God has a way of vindicating his servants, and standing up for Christ will not be in vain.

VI. Conclusion.

A. To those who are half hearted, get whole hearted.

B. You may need to leave your occupation to do what God wants to do through you.

C. God will use the great majority of people where they are at.

Application questions.

1. What four groups did the speaker identify? Explain the differences.

2. Which group did he give the most attention to? Why do you think that is?

3. Which group do you see yourself falling into? What feelings did you have as a result of the speaker's message to you? How do you plan to put these principles into operation?
