

The Call to Battle

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I. Introduction.

- A. Hell was silent in the book of Acts when the disciples gathered for prayer, Bible Study and personnel meetings.
- B. It was not until the disciples hit the street with the gospel that all hell broke loose.
- C. Sharing the gospel brings us into the battle.
- D. Many Christians are not involved in that battle now, being content with their spirituality.
- E. Text: Deuteronomy 20.

II. Christianity is a call to battle.

- A. The first prophesy of Jesus has to do with battle. (Genesis 3:15)
- B. Our call is a call into battle and suffering for Jesus' namesake. (Acts 26:18, Acts 9:15-16)
- C. Many great saints went into the battle. (Hebrews 11:37-38)
- D. There is no "if" in the battle - it is a "when."

III. The call into the battle is individual.

- A. When we desert our place in the line, everyone suffers.
- B. Each of us has an important mission from Jesus Christ.
- C. He sends us forth on a mission that cannot fail.
- D. Every one of us has a our own job to do for God. (Romans 1:1, Colossians 4:12)

VI. In the army of God we serve until He takes us home. (1 Peter 2:9-11)

- A. This is not our home.
- B. Live for the words "well done" from our Lord, and live to merit them.
- C. God is with us in the battle. (2 Samuel 23:8)

VII. We are to not be afraid in the battle.

- A. Our confidence is to come from the Lord. (Psalm 20:5-7)

B. They were commanded to fear not because the Lord was with them and they could remember the power and goodness of God in the past. (Deuteronomy 20:2-4)

C. The job of the spiritual leader was to encourage the troops.

VIII. Possessions, work and some person got in the way of the Israelite's commitment to God. (Luke 14)

A. With possessions, honor the Lord with what you have. (Proverbs 3:9)

B. If you have a job, honor God with it first. (Matthew 6:33, 1 Corinthians 10:31)

C. Jesus is to have no rival.

IX. We carry too much baggage for the race of Christ. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

A. God is looking for people who are whole-hearted and single minded people of faith.

B. We are not to turn from the battle. (Joshua 1:7, John 14:1)

C. It costs something to be in the battle, but God calls us to this battle and promises us that we will never be alone.

Application questions

1. What does "the battle" refer to? Why does your place as an individual matter in this battle?

2. What are hindrances to the battle, and how are we to appropriately respond?

3. What is the cost of the battle? How does God comfort us in the midst of this cost?
