

## **Service - Fighters & Guards**

### **1Samuel 30:21-25**

Background of David's pursuit of the Amalekites 1Samuel 29, 30:1-20

Notice similarities between David's statute & service as Christians today. We too are engaged in battle - 1Timothy 6:12; Ephesians 6:12; 2Corinthians 10:3-6

### **God's Army Requires Two Forms Of Service**

Any military venture depends on support and battle forces

"Men won't fight on an empty stomach won't march w/out shoes"

Many battles won by efficiency of support for those on front

The same is true with God's army and the battle we face

Two forms of service are required:

"Fighters", and "Guards of the baggage" / "Teachers" and "Those that support them"

This truth is well illustrated in the NT

During Christ's own ministry - Luke 8:1-3

Paul supported by churches - 2Corinthians 11:8-9; Philippians 4:15-16

Also by individuals - Romans 16:23; Philemon 1:22

Yes, to carry out God's battle, must be "teachers" & "supporters"

God's army requires both to serve at "front" & to serve at "base"

### **Both Services Are Equally Important**

This is certainly true in physical warfare

One might think the men on the front are the "most important"

Can't discount importance, battles won or lost based on support!

This is just as true in the Body of Christ

Body has many members not the same function - Romans 12:3-8

Growth depends upon "every part does its share" - Ephesians 4:15-16

Paul stresses all members and functions vital!

None can say they themselves are not important - 1Corinthians 12:12-19

No one can say that others are not important - 1Corinthians 12:20-22

Failure to realize this truth can be disastrous! If not careful, can over-emphasize one work to neglect of others! Stress evangelism to neglect of edification & benevolence - James 3:1; 1Corinthians 12:29

Some involved in work for which not suited at failure, disappointed, unless shown other ways to serve, become apathetic, fruitless

It often hinders the Lord's cause in spreading the gospel! Lack of support hinders many foreign or smaller works

If don't appreciate importance of support, body is handicapped

### **Both Demand Same Goal, Sacrifice, And Zeal**

In the case of David and his men, were not lazy or scared

Though exhausted, were just as motivated as those who went on

Someone had to stay w/baggage, or force might not catch enemy

Staying behind was sacrifice, when your family in enemy hands!

Guarded baggage with same goal, sacrifice, and zeal as pursuers!

To fulfill roles in Lord's army, all need same goal, sacrifice, zeal!

What is our "goal"? - 1Peter 4:11

To glorify God, whether in our service or in our teaching!

This goal transform secular/mundane into sacred/important one!

Baby-sitting so parents can be free to visit and teach others

Working as common laborer support preachers elsewhere

What kind of "sacrifice"? - 1Peter 4:10

Each has gift, an ability, given to him by God's manifold grace - **Matthew 25:14-30** *talents*

May not have same talent, or number, expected to do our best

May serve in different areas, should have same sense of sacrifice

Some believe preachers should be willing to sacrifice > others

Is such a view consistent with what we are learning here?

Should "quartermasters" back at base squander what was given to support "soldiers" at the front?

Shouldn't all have same willingness to sacrifice if need there?

If brethren "at the base" sacrificed as much as expected those "at the front", would there not be more good things being done?

What kind of "zeal"? - **1Peter 4:11**

Whatever ability, whatever service, God gives strength to do it!

Shall we be slack with what God has given us? Be zealous to utilize what have in manner worthy of God's gift!!!

### **Both Services Receive The Same Reward**

We saw where David made this a law in Israel **1Samuel 30:24-25**

The principle is repeated in the New Testament - **Matthew 10:41-42; Matthew 20:1-16**

Illustrated with regards to deacons, who are servants of the church - **1Timothy 3:13**

Too often, the Lord's battle is hindered by the lack of support - some willing to go & teach, but others not be willing to send & support

Yet we have seen that both forms of service are equally important, require the same goal, sacrifice, and zeal, receive the same reward

Wherever we serve in the Lord's "army", whether "At The Front Or At The Base", let's do it as good stewards and with great zeal!

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