

The Warfare in Us

The following is a short interaction. It is one of six that will be sent to you one day at a time for your prayer. Merry and I hope these really bless you and make you seek the heart of God for your life and your life's situations.

"What do you mean we have to return to our homes?"

"Gideon said he was told by God to send troops back to their camp. Those he sends are not part of what this battle is all about. He said God was going to win this one for us."

"How many of us is he sending back?"

"I don't know for sure, but I think he's sending all but 300 home."

"What! Has he lost his mind? We'll be wiped out! Doesn't he know that all of our families, our homes, and our freedoms depend on this battle? If we lose this fight, our nation will never recover! As it stands, if we all stay, the battle will be as tough as any we've ever fought before. How can we possibly win this way? We need to do something about this. It's crazy! I'm not staking my family's future on leadership that makes no sense. I'm a warrior trained to fight. I'll lay my life down for what is right, but to sit by and watch this stupidity unfold – no way, man!"

Judges 7:1-25

Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. ²The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her, ³announce now to the people, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.' " So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

⁴But the LORD said to Gideon, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will sift them for you there. If I say, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go; but if I say, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go."

⁵So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, "Separate those who lap the water with their tongues like a dog from those who kneel down to drink."

⁶Three hundred men lapped with their hands to their mouths. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.

⁷The LORD said to Gideon, "With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the other men go, each to his own place." ⁸So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites to their tents but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.

Now the camp of Midian lay below him in the valley. ⁹During that night the LORD said to Gideon, "Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands. ¹⁰If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah

11and listen to what they are saying. Afterward, you will be encouraged to attack the camp." So he and Purah his servant went down to the outposts of the camp. 12The Midianites, the Amalekites and all the other eastern peoples had settled in the valley, thick as locusts. Their camels could no more be counted than the sand on the seashore. 13Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. "I had a dream," he was saying. "A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed." 14His friend responded, "This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands." 15When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped God. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, "Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands." 16Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside. 17"Watch me," he told them. "Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do. 18When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, 'For the LORD and for Gideon.' " 19Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands. 20The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!" 21While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled. 22When the three hundred trumpets sounded, the LORD caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords. The army fled to Beth Shittah toward Zererah as far as the border of Abel Meholah near Tabbath. 23Israelites from Naphtali, Asher and all Manasseh were called out, and they pursued the Midianites. 24Gideon sent messengers throughout the hill country of Ephraim, saying, "Come down against the Midianites and seize the waters of the Jordan ahead of them as far as Beth Barah." So all the men of Ephraim were called out and they took the waters of the Jordan as far as Beth Barah. 25They also captured two of the Midianite leaders, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb at the winepress of Zeeb. They pursued the Midianites and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon, who was by the Jordan.²

The warfare in us
(part 2)

"If you think I'm going to march around Jericho one more day, you've got another think coming! For the last six days, he's made us look like fools! We're warriors. We have God on our side. We can take this place if we set our minds to it."

"You haven't heard the rest of the plan yet. Are you ready? Today, we are supposed to march around that place seven times and when that's done – get this! – we're gonna shout."

"What's that supposed to do?"

"I don't know, something about the Lord winning this battle, not us."

"Oh sure! That really takes the cake. Are you kidding me, just shout all together after looking like fools for seven days? I suppose the walls will just disappear and "poof," we'll just walk right in there. This is stupid, man! This kind of warfare makes no sense at all to me."

Joshua 5:13 – 6:20

*13*Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

14"Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord^D have for his servant?"

*15*The commander of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.⁶*1*Now Jericho was tightly shut up because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.

*2*Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. *3*March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. *4*Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. *5*When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have all the people give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the people will go up, every man straight in."

*6*So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant of the LORD and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it." *7*And he ordered the people, "Advance! March around the city, with the armed guard going ahead of the ark of the LORD."

*8*When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the LORD went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the LORD's covenant followed them. *9*The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding.

*10*But Joshua had commanded the people, "Do not give a war cry, do not raise your

voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!" ¹¹So he had the ark of the LORD carried around the city, circling it once. Then the people returned to camp and spent the night there.

¹²Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.

¹³The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the LORD and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets kept ³sounding. ¹⁴So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

¹⁵On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. ¹⁶The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city! ¹⁷The city and all that is in it are to be devoted^A to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute^B and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. ¹⁸But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. ¹⁹All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury."

²⁰When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so every man charged straight in, and they took the city. ²¹They devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it--men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys. ⁴

The warfare in us (Part 3)

"Master, I'm Thaddeus, one of the leaders of your people. We zealots have been waiting for you to give us orders. We know that you are the Messiah sent by God to destroy all the evil that is happening here. We are with you. My men and I have been training. We aren't many; but our hearts are right, and we will do what it takes. You can trust each one of us with your life if necessary. I'm concerned though, Master. I've heard a rumor that I know can't be true. I've been told that we won't be fighting, even after we've waited all these years for you, our deliverer, to come. There must be some

mistake. I heard that you said we must love our enemies and that *Your kind of love* would defeat them. What kind of warfare is that? You can't really mean that, can you?"

Mark 15:25-32

It was the third hour when they crucified him. 26The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS. 27They crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left.A 29Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, 30come down from the cross and save yourself!"

31In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! 32Let this Christ,B this King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him. 5

The warfare in us (Part 4)

"Andrew, James, Thomas, over here. We've got to talk."

Rising from their places, the three walked to the shadows where Peter was standing. Peter pulled himself away in secret, or so he thought, out of His Master's hearing.

"I need you guys to back me. He's not making any sense again. He says that if they come for Him, He won't fight. Look, we may not be warriors, but we could hold a couple of them off while He gets away. We have to show them that we won't stand for this kind of treatment. It's not right! You and I know that we have to fight. If He gives in, hell itself will be loosed against us. People will think we are weak and run all over us. I'll go and talk to Him. Are you with me?"

Matthew 16:21-23

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

22Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

23Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." 6

The warfare in us
(Part 5)

"He's left us. He's made fools out of all of us. Why does He just hang there naked?

"He's the Messiah. We all know that. How can He do this to us? We believed in Him and now this. How can this accomplish anything? All He has to do is come down off that cross in power, and then His enemies would see. Surely, there must be some mistake!

Read Mark 15:25-32

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33At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. 34And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"-- which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"^{C 7}

The warfare in us
(Part 6)

Throughout the Word of God, our Lord proves Himself to be sovereign. Because He has chosen to become interwoven in the lives of His creation to help them see spiritually, the world has been changed for eternity. Man's ways of battle have never gained anything but more battles and temporary accomplishments. God's way deals with the inner parts of men and exposes the real battle ground – the hearts, the will, the motives and the other gods we serve.

We are not fighting flesh and blood, but spiritual wickedness in high places. Each of us would be wise to realize that “the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (physical,) but mighty for the pulling down of strongholds.” Will we use those weapons against the strongholds in the world or against the more deadly strongholds of self and control and rebellion and spiritual adultery in our hearts, that the Lord might be revealed in His power through us? His desire is that they might see Jesus in us.

“What, me? Spiritual adultery in me? I know I have some areas in my life that should be dealt with, but look how bad the world is! Look what they’re doing! We’ve got to do something. We must show them what is wrong and what is right. It’s our job to make them see, isn’t it? We’re supposed to be salt and light, aren’t we? How can just praying and seeking His Face and turning from my wickedness change anything anyway? There’s too much to be done and we’re the ones to do it, aren’t we? Aren’t we?”

Read Isaiah 55:8-9 (Ampl.)

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, says 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.”

Teach me to see, Lord,

Jim Corbett