

The Kingdom Established Through Warfare

By RT Nusbaum

Let's look at Matthew chapter five, verse one. *"And seeing the multitudes he went up into a mountain: and when he was seated, his disciples came unto him: and he opened his mouth, and he taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."* And particularly this one, *"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."* And if you notice, there seems to be a lack in a certain sense particularly verse 3,4,and 6. There seems to be a lack or a need, if you will. *"Blessed are the poor in spirit,"* a needy kind of situation. *"Blessed are they that mourn,"* obviously somebody in need. Verse 6, *"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness:"* And I believe hungering and thirsting (another word for that is being empty). If you're hungry, you are empty. You need fuel. You need food. We all experience that. God in his grace and his mercy has established certain things. Although I do realize that I have been told that there are people that are hungry in this country, I have been told by people that they have never been hungry in their whole life. They have never experienced real hunger. But by and large, most of us have. And when you're hungry you are empty, and you are needing as this says, "to be filled."

And with that look over in Second Corinthians chapter four, a very familiar verse here. Verse 7. "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels," notice the earthen vessel "that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us." And of course some of you may be familiar with the following scriptures. "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; We are perplexed, yet not in despair; We are persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you." And the emphasis here, of the troubled and the this and that. "Always bearing about," he says in verse 10 "in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus." Particularly verse 7 where he talks about this problem with power. There seems to be some sort of recognition on the part of the apostle Paul or if you will, on the part of this earthen vessel, that he is simply an earthen vessel, that he is simply not just a vessel, but an earthen vessel. There is a lack. There seems to be a lack, but he identifies the answer to that. "We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that..." what does "that" represent? Purpose.

You can understand the purpose of God by studying scriptures like this. "That the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us. We are perplexed," There seems to be misunderstanding in some Christian's mind's about the fundamental way a Christian should be and walk. There are teachers today and preachers that seem to address the fact that we are all supposed to be over-comers, and we are. However they put it in terms of

never having problems, never really facing things but always victoriously. However this says "we are troubled." We are troubled, but the way it's presented is that well we are really not troubled. That would be a lack of faith or something. We just seem troubled. No, we are troubled. But there is a power and the power here is really not described. It's described in two ways, verse 7 and verse 10. The power is really not just this overcoming type of faith-rising. Now there are places for that and in this context that is not the place. In other words there are places where that happens, where faith arises, whether it's the gift of faith or whatever. However the power mentioned here is the power of that treasure within, and the power of the cross.

The Power of the Cross

Now isn't that interesting, "the power of the cross". We find Paul rather caught up in this understanding of the power of the cross. He's hung up, because he talks about it in the first chapter of I Corinthians "The preaching of the cross is the power of God." Yet the cross, Christ and him crucified, is the power and the wisdom of God. He describes how many of the Jews missed understanding that concept because they were looking for Jesus to come in power, and to use power, and to straighten everything out, and to overthrow the Romans, and to display this great power so that they could say "greater is he than thee," or whatever. Well they got 'fooled,' if you will, not by God but by themselves and the teachers of the day. They didn't really search the scriptures and say "God, what are you saying?" They didn't really find out that there is a power that comes through weakness and lack. Now that doesn't mean that if you are weak and lacking that this power is at work in you. There is a circumstance of the weakness and lack, and it is related to the cross. You see, Jesus was weak. Jesus was (at the cross we're talking about) weak and lacking, and yet you sensed a tremendous power there. You see a tremendous power in the fact that he could hang up there, and they spit in his face, shoved a spear in his side, mocked him; said "oh you said that you were the son of God. If you are the Son of God, why don't you prove it?" And yet all he said was "Father forgive them." Now that took more power to do that than to zap them. Right? That took a whole lot more; a different kind of power. So now I'm honing in on this thing. The kind of weakness is the issue here.

The Weakness of the Cross

The weakness of the cross is what we are talking about, not just general weakness. Now it is true that general weakness, which we have all experienced in certain areas, can lead you to a place of depending upon the cross. It can bring you to a place of seeing your lack and drawing the conclusion that we are troubled. But just weakness isn't the answer and God isn't trying to make everybody weak. However most of us are wrestling and we've found in other studies, in Romans the sixth chapter that there God dealt with sin. We are always praying "God, make me stronger than this sin. God make me stronger than this sin. Make me stronger. God make me overcome this. Help me. Strengthen me Lord." Yet he is saying there that a strengthening is not needed to be taking place, but a death. And he says "In that he died unto sin, he put it away. That through death, he rendered sin inoperative." And so the weakness that we have brings us to a place to begin to lean into

the cross (For lack of a better way of putting it, because what terminology can truly impart what happens when a believer has come to a reality of what that cross means, that the cross is the victor).

The Victory of the Cross

It's not just something that happened two thousand years ago that brought victory today. A brother this morning shared with me a dream that he had. He didn't understand it, but it was a dream of...it was like a church. People began to come in but they were not people. They were sheep, and they began to fill the pews. Then entered, not a sheep, but a little lamb. All of the sheep began to say, "Behold the lamb of God." There was great rejoicing and glory, just a glory cloud around that whole thing. With tears in his eyes he expressed it to me and said "I don't know what it means." Well I didn't try to explain. It means just what it says. It means that we are to be conformed to the image of Christ, who is a lamb. It means that the true church is made up of those that are understanding. They are not just trying to be weak. Do you understand that? That's a real bad picture. They are not trying to be weak. They're trying to be in the image of Christ. They are doing more than trying. The spirit of God is conforming them to that image. They glory in the lamb because they see, not just the pieces of wood. You see we talk about the cross, but it wasn't two pieces of wood that did anything. Do you understand that? That is not the cross. That's two pieces of wood. Those two beams were not the cross, however on that cross in a physical way, Jesus manifested the spirit of the lamb or the spirit of the cross. Now think about that for a moment. I mean, they could have nailed him to concrete or something. God chose the way of the cross. If you know anything about church history, you know that thousands upon thousands died on wooden crosses. I mean they crucified masses of people, the Romans did.

They had crosses as far as the eye could see. So it wasn't particularly that the wood was holy. No, there the most powerful creature that had ever come into the earth, THE SON OF GOD, laid down his life. Now I want you to see that this weakness was strong. In other words, it wasn't weakness. It was a different kind of strength, for to be able to do that would take a tremendous amount of strength. Do you see what I am saying? This is real important that you see this, because people get confused. They hear the Spirit of the Lamb and they totally misinterpret it. They think that we are all supposed to walk around beat down and pushed around. "Hey wimp," and stuff like that. That's not it. That has nothing to do with it. That's not it at all. What God is after, is the spirit of the lamb.

Counterfeit Spirits

Now there are other spirits that try to counterfeit the spirit of the lamb. The spirit of the lamb is weakness to man, but to God it is powerful. Do you understand, the spirit of the lamb is powerful. There is the martyr spirit and there is the passive spirit. A martyr spirit being "O poor me. I'm laying down my life for you and you are not appreciating this." It's just, a self-centered spirit. It's focused on what I'm doing for you and it demands payment. Now the spirit of the lamb doesn't demand payment. The wonder of the spirit of the lamb is the incorruptible seed and that from the death; "except a seed fall into the

ground and die, it abides alone, but if it die it will bring forth much fruit." John 12:2 The glory of the spirit of the lamb is, "if it die, it does bring forth much fruit." However, the martyr spirit really doesn't bring forth much fruit, in the sense of good fruit. It causes a reaction or a burden. It says "well, I laid down my life for you and I laid down my life in the spirit of the lamb and I fully expect you to pay me back when I need this." Now they wouldn't say that, but that's kind of the deal. It's a kind of an exchange. Now I'm gonna... if you will... . That's not the spirit of the lamb, and usually it's a dragging down spirit. You feel unedified. All of you know what you feel like when you've been shared with, and you feel edified (uplifted). Now you may not understand all that was shared but there is something to that and it builds you up. But the martyr spirit tends to bring you down;there's a heaviness that comes on you. And when that person with a martyr spirit tries to minister, you are going "oh boy. Well, if this is what you have to do for God, I'll do it." Do you know what I mean? "I'll drag myself to church. O'kay I'll give. This is the Christian life, I'll do it." And do you know what, there is a lot of pride mixed in with that. But there was no pride in the Son of God. He did it because he truly loved us.

"As the kingdom of the Son increases, the kingdom of darkness decreases."

You knew that he isn't saying "now I died and you better shape up", but the whole point of authority at this time is that whosoever will. Whosoever will. And when you look to that cross you count that death of the cross as your death, and then with that death, by the Spirit of the Lord you understand that. And that death is counted as your death. "I am crucified with Christ". Then the step of that is that you begin to be delivered from the power of darkness because you have changed kings. Then you are translated, now the deliverance is as

He increases, you decrease. As the kingdom of the Son increases, the kingdom of darkness decreases. So a translation takes place and you are in another kingdom with another king. And it's not just that you are free to do what you want, but you are free to serve the new king. You choose to do that. That is how you got in there. That's one of the things that has been all mixed up over the last 2000 years. It is that people are not supposed to be drug into the Kingdom of God kicking and screaming. Or saying "well I will accept this salvation part", and then you get them in there and they say "don't ask me to do that." But they need to understand how important it is to choose to follow Jesus.

Entering In

I thank God that the bible does say to "count the cost" It's just like Israel. I mean it was glory, crossing the Red Sea and they were singing and excited. It closed on the enemy and they were rejoicing and everything. But they didn't realize that they had miles and miles of desert to cover before they got to the Promised land. We always think, "I'm in. I'm in. I'm in." No, you are out. Now you have to come in. Do you see what I am saying? You have left the land of bondage, but now is the entering in. And the difference between Joshua and Caleb, and the others was that the others were going "oh man, it's getting a little rough. Why don't we just go back? I really like the leeks and garlic that we had back there. Let's go back to Egypt. Let's make a captain." Joshua and Caleb said "No, let's go in and take the land. God is with us. If God be pleased with us, we can take them." And I

like what he said. "They are bread for us." That's what they said about those giants. They didn't say "well, God will probably defeat them." He said "they are bread for us." Now that's a little different than "I think that God will give me the victory." Giving you the victory is one thing, and I'm convinced that many people get the victory and never grow. And therefore when they get ready in another situation they have no strength or trust in the Lord because they really didn't gain anything from the last one.

So they go through the same thing again and God has to supernaturally deliver them. There is never any real growth. They are not eating or assimilating. They are not growing in this thing. It's not that the enemy is bread for them, it's just a relief to get out of that one. They have really nothing that they have went through. You go through the valley of Baca and you pass through it but you come out, just like you were on the other side. There are things that he is developing in us; so that when at a certain point, you begin to say "Not only is this something to be endured..." Endure, you will. You know when it says "rejoice in troubles and trials", I don't think that it's saying rejoice in the midst of them. It's not saying "Oh yeah I love this, hit me again Lord. Praise God!". I don't think that this is what God is trying to do. However, when we are in the midst we rejoice. Well what makes you rejoice? "It's bread for me. I'm going to come out on the other side of this with a little better equipment. I will have, if nothing else, experienced something that others are going to experience and I can have a little more compassion." Now that's just one of the extras. That's not the main thing.

Good People Die in War

God is developing in us a character like Joshua and Caleb. They didn't think "let's go in and take the land and we'll just defeat them and everything will be glorious." They had a fight on their hands and they didn't just go in and fight and not lose a man. That's something that God showed me a long time ago. When pastoring and ministering and trying to bring the sheep along, and trying to lead in the battle and trying to bring the troops along, good people would get hurt or wounded or even leave God. It would blow my mind and I'd grieve, and grieve, and grieve for them and cry and pray and hurt. Then the Lord reminded me that during Vietnam good people died. Good People. Sometimes the dumb ones that deserved to die didn't. And good people did. Now I'm using that to give you an example, but the good people a lot of times walked point, which is the guy that goes out in the head of the thing. He goes out there and he's the first one to hit the land mine or the sniper gets him first. The fire goes right at him. Good people die in war. So there were people that died when they took the Promised Land. There were people that died. Even when they won the war, there were people that died. We don't even think about that. I've read accounts where it says "the enemy wiped out 500,000 and all that they lost was 2,000." We go "yeah!" But do you know what, there were 2,000 mamas that were mourning somewhere in Israel, in the midst of the victory. And it's true spiritually folks. Good people die. Good people fall by the way side. Good people get wounded and hurt. I needed that. I needed God to teach me that, because I was having such a hard time. I could not take the fact that good people were falling away or were getting wounded under my leadership.

We Are in a War

I was a sergeant when I was in the Army and I had a platoon of 26 men. Those were part of you. I wasn't even a Christian but when you are working together like that they become a part of you. Especially when you are over them. You feel protective of them and my platoon was the worst group. I had drug addicts, I had murderers. They gave me all of the people that nobody else could handle. But they were my men, and you didn't mess with my men. But do you know what? Good people die and you feel that loss and you go "O man." All your Christian walk, and should we finish out our life on this earth, should you end up anywhere else or should God move in some other way, all of your life you are going to see not just bad people leave God or get wounded. You're going to see good people. You're going to see stuff because it's war. And so, you do like what you do in war. You go through what you go through and when you get in your first firefight, you do stupid things. If you live through it, you try to get with that sergeant or whoever, who has been through this a bunch and you try to learn what has kept him alive. You try to learn what has kept him alive. That's not unusual. Paul said "be followers of those who, man, through patience have inherited the promises." Follow those that have lived this thing and have made it through a little while. There is no guarantee that you will make it. But if you learn, if you can find out that they are bread for you, if you can get bread on each one, and get a little stronger and learn a little more and get a little more adapt at what is going on because it is never going to change.

Now let me preface that, and you wrestle with this right now. This will be for you to wrestle with tonight. I've had people come out of other churches, they were happy go lucky and everything was great. They were here for a couple of years or 8 months or whatever. Pretty soon they began to say "man I've never had the problems that I am having in this church. Why the churches that I have been to before, it was all up and happy and all of this kind of stuff." The initial time that you hear that, you go "oh, great." It is from a pastoral point of view that I am talking about. You are trying to serve God as best as you know how and you go "oh, great. Praise God." Especially when you start hearing it several times. "Well, I am a real man of God, huh." You begin to question.

But the Lord has shown me that when you really begin to preach the word, it begins to divide the soul from the spirit. "The word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, and it divides..." Jesus even said "I did not come to bring peace, but a sword." We begin to be confronted with things that maybe in a big church you never got confronted with. If you did and there are 5,000 people out there, when he is preaching and says "you," and he is pointing, you can always say "well that is this section." You can miss that. Somehow you get swallowed in the crowd. You say "well, he didn't mean me because he doesn't even know me." Well, God knows you. There are methods and means that God uses. God needs to be able to deal with us. He needs to be able to talk to us. The scriptures that we read this morning, about "no chastisement is fun but grievous." It didn't say "yeah, whip me again." It said "man this is rough, but afterwards it is bringing forth something that becomes bread for you. Now it may not bring forth anything. You can just go through problem after problem and trial after trial, and eventually the devil will get his meat hooks in you. If you go out long enough on

reconnaissance and you do not do the right thing; like drop, when you hear bullets flying. You don't drop and shoot. But you say "hey what's happening man." And maybe after the first three, they just didn't hit you. In time you are going to get hit. You see there are some things to be learned. This really is war.

I was a hippy and when I got sent to Vietnam, the guys that were already over there didn't like guys like me. They could lose their life at any moment and they didn't like all of the protesting and stuff that was going on. Can you see why they wouldn't? Can you see that if you are in the battle fighting and you run into Christians that go "oh man, isn't everything rosey." You say "haven't you heard, there is a war going on?" "Well fight it for me. I really don't believe in that." You have three purple hearts and you have lost a leg or something like that. It took me one trip over seas, just over seas out of this country, when I got back I got down and kissed the ground. God has blessed this country. Yes it is under judgment. But I tell you what, the devil didn't bless this country. Now I challenge you that are down on America only. The blessing of God is here too. And he is going to bring judgment on this country, no question about it. Do you know what, I believe that there are going to be a-lot of Americans in heaven. They will not be americans. They are already citizens of the kingdom. They have been here praying. You know, praying for Korea. They were praying for Korea during the Korean War when they didn't hardly have any Christianity. This country has prayed for the world. This country has given to world missions like no other country. This country has gone more than any other country. They have sent more missionairies. Well it wasn't just America was it, but we said God bless America from the very beginning. That is what God wants. But it is the Kingdom, not just America. It's the Kingdom come. When we understand that, we are citizens of our country, we obey the laws of our country, but we are obeying the King. We render unto Caesar but we render unto the Lord too, the things that are the Lord's.

The Fire Fight

Back to the fire fight... You can stand up and not dodge bullets, and live through two or three maybe, but you are going to be hit sooner or later. The goal is that we are learning in the battle. We are in the battle. We are down here fighting and the thing is going on and the leaders are up in front fighting. The soldiers are holding up Moses' arms because he is getting tired. Finally when the arms are getting tired and you start noticing something. You go "hmm, we are starting to lose." Well let's get his arms up, and you start winning. The arms start going down, and "man we are losing." My point of that is that you begin to learn certain things that help you to win the next time. It gives you a little more insight as to how the enemy works and how God works and how this thing is supposed to be worked out. The goal of that is so that you will not be a casualty, but not just so that you will not be a casualty. God wants to train up an army that is seasoned, and that can take in troops who don't know anything and can lay the manual down. And instead of just saying "for God so loved the world." They can lay that baby down and say "look here man. Listen we are troubled, but I tell you what, we are not distressed. We are persecuted. We are bearing about in our body the dying." Like I said, I have had people

come and they say "I am leaving this church because it was more fun in those others." Well I can't argue with them. It was more fun for me too, but that is not what God has called me to do.

I believe, now this is not just for anybody but pretty much everybody, God is trying to get their attention right now. The kingdom has to come in earth as it is in heaven to some degree. So I believe that he is working toward the kingdom coming on earth as it is in heaven and that is going to take some soldiers of the cross. We sing that, "Onward Christian soldiers..." I'm sure that when they first wrote that it was "yeah, yeah, yeah, bring in the kingdom." By the time that I came along it was "Onward Christian soldier marching as to war. When is church going to be over? I have a roast in the stove." There is not even the concept anymore of the war. The Christians have lost the revolutionary aspects of what the gospel is all about. They just fit in with the world and now it has become so ingrained, that if somebody like you or me comes along and tries to share it with them about this, they think that we are crazy. We are in a certain sense. We do not have that mind that they have. We are out of our minds and into his.

Fight the Good Fight

Paul told Timothy, and that is what I see that God is trying to do with us, "fight the good fight of faith. Don't you know that when a soldier goes to war..." He uses all of this. There is a whole bunch of it, and I am sure that you have seen it. He uses that terminology many times. Well what is Paul doing? Whatever rank that Paul is, whether it is sergeant or whatever; he is taking Timothy, Titus, and Tychicus, and Apaphroditus, and Silas, and Barnabas, and everybody else, he is taking these guys and he is training them for the kingdom of God. And not just for warfare. It is not just "well let's go out and fight the devil." We are trying to do something, and that is to establish the Kingdom of God, to free people from the power of darkness. Now just think, if the whole church got that mentality what would be the thrust of the programs and the financial giving and of the this and the that? We would actually be taking ground for God instead of just kind of biding our time or trying to develop little things to keep us busy. Build a gym so that the kids can come and play basketball instead of being out on the streets. Well I do not have any problem with that except, I do not want the kids playing basketball in a church and not on the streets, I want them enrolled in the army. Do you see what I am saying? They need to be in basic training. They need to get their training and they need to go through the manual. They need to learn to begin to discern the manual. Then they need to be put in positions of practical working; not too much too fast, but enough to get some experience and to put what they are learning to work. Then they need to, at a certain juncture after they have experienced and studied and failed and experienced and they are under the tutelage of somebody else, be given a broader area of responsibility that they can watch God work through them and develop. They can begin to take a little ground for the kingdom. Do you know what I mean? It's not like, "You go and take this city and that one." It may come to that, but right at first it is just this little, "Go and take this little potted plant for God." That is ok, if they learn that then they have something under their belt and then they can go for more.

So the goal of the battles is not that you get through it in one piece. The law of averages is going to catch up to you if you do not get something out of each one. The law of averages will probably catch up to you. If you are going like Joshua and Caleb and you say "man, let's go in. They are bread for us." He is saying that we are going to get something out of this. This is going to feed our spirit man. We are going to be more developed than what we were before. Let's go in and do it. Let's go and do exploits in the name of the Lord. Well it wasn't this total naiveté or this other thing that just goes "well man let's just..." you know it wasn't stupid, they did lose people. There was war. War is war folks. What's the old saying? War is hell.

As long as there is a devil on this earth, he is going to be after the souls of men. It's war and it is not fun. Now there are peaceful times. There are times when the firefight stops. There are times when you begin to rest. You get some R&R, but basically you realize that you are coming back to the front lines to do what you have to do. Now if you were the president of a country, you wouldn't like to have troops that said "you know, I am having a bunch of problems in this war. I did not have near the problems that I used to have when there wasn't a war. I think that I will go to Hawaii and just live my life out there." You are going "if enough of you say that, then we are going to be in big trouble." Do you see what I am saying? The enemy begins to take beach-head after beach-head after beach-head and pretty soon the world starts looking blacker and blacker and blacker and there are fewer hearts that are sold out to God. Even the Christians. You begin to have a sense that they are more worldly than they are in the image of the cross. Soldiers of the Cross. Then you begin to wonder what is going to happen. Well I can tell you that Christians are not going to overthrow the darkness and rule the world without Jesus. I don't believe that. I believe that Jesus is going to be the one to come back with a sword in his mouth. But do you know what? We are in training and I believe that we ought to take a certain amount of ground. He doesn't want any of them to perish, so we must take some ground. We can't say "well we are Christians, at least we are safe." What we are talking about here is souls, lives.

There have been times in the history of the world where people like Finney would go in and preach in a town and win almost every soul in that town. They shut down the beer joints and they shut down this and that. That is nothing more than the kingdom coming in earth. I believe that he wants. He is the captain of our salvation. He is going to lead us into battle. In the mean-time we are supposed to be taking ground, learning from each battle, getting bread from it. Not just so that we can say that I lived through this. Now here is back to my concept, what I feel like I have heard from the Lord. What we are supposed to be doing is training troops and getting a certain group trained and they have learned the concepts that I have talked about, and when they go through it they learn a little more. They are a little more adapt. It says in Hebrews, that "you are babes. You are unskillful in the word." He talks about those that are mature have exercised themselves in the word of truth. They know how to use that sword. There is some skill, and where do you get skill? Experience. Tribulation worketh experience. Problems work the experience and experience, hope because you get through another one and you learn a little more. Hope maketh not ashamed because the love of God is shed abroad in our heart by the Holy Ghost.

In Training

I can see that it would seem to me that what the Lord is trying to do is to establish places where some have some training under their belt. They have something to impart to others. They understand what is going on. That is real important. That is so important. It can't be "well I show up for every service." They have to understand what is going on. If they do, then they will grow from being a recruit to a trainer. Then the more we win, instead of them having to spend years of wandering around and going to church and just hearing a salvation message or just hearing about the gifts or just this and that. They will be trained for the kingdom of God and the glory of God, and to follow the king and they will be under authority. The kingdom of God is not just God saying "go and do this." "Yes, sir." The kingdom of God is God ruling the inner man. That is first and foremost. He has to have control of that. Well, maybe we are not there yet but that is what part of the goal is. It can't be "well I just want to be free so that I don't have these problems." But I tell you what, those that are in training for God under the direction of the Sergeant Holy Spirit and who say "yes, sir. I don't know it all. I blew it. I'm a new recruit. I'm green. I'm wet behind the ears, but I love God. I love the Captain of our Salvation and Holy Spirit, you are my Sergeant amen. You work me and you do whatever. "Drop down and give me 50 push-ups." "Yes, sir." And you are thinking "if that will strengthen me, then good" but you are going to "train me."

You have a whole line of recruits and one says "man, get me out of this thing. I am tired of these problems. I just want to..." This other one says "train me. Teach me. I want to help in the war. I want to see the war effort go forward. I want to see the kingdom come in the earth as it is in heaven. If you will train me, whatever you put into me, I will put into others and we will spread this thing and get it going." And the Holy Spirit says "step forward." Do you see what I am saying? "You are my kind of guy." The other one is totally self-centered. "Would you help me? Why don't you help me. Man I have been crying out." Remember it's that saving of your little perimeter. "Lord just heal my family and bless my finances and bless this and make me comfortable so that I can watch TV. Well guess what, the little perimeter gets smaller and smaller and smaller, and you say "what is wrong with my finances? What's wrong? I don't ever get healed." Well it gets smaller and smaller and pretty soon you are going "well if there is a God..." Boy I tell you what, God gives ground to those who are taking it for him and for his glory. That was one of the scriptures that you read. It talked about, "for my sake... for my sake do this thing"(Matthew 16:25). So you are going "yeah, yeah, I'm behind you. I have the vision that you have called us to do. I see it. I have read the manual. I'm seeing it and I am plugged into it, and here I am. Train me." Then the Holy Spirit gets you seasoned and then you try as best as you can.

Our Sergeant the Holy Spirit

Now preaching can not impart that vision of what the captain of our salvation is trying to do. Did you know that? It can in the sense of "how shall they hear, lest a preacher preach", but Jesus preached for three years and they bickered and argued and fought and wanted to be the greatest and this and that. But you know, in the book of Acts it says that

they had all things common and they loved one another and they met from house to house. What was the difference? The Holy Spirit was the difference. Getting close to the Holy Spirit: the sergeant. Train me. See, it is not just "well I have been listening to those sermons week after week, when am I going to get it?" You may never, three and one half years with Jesus, the greatest teacher that ever walked this earth and they did not get it until the Holy Spirit came. I have been praying "Holy Spirit." That is what I prayed during the conference and I saw more results. "Holy Spirit, you come and be the teacher." That is what I prayed when I was up here sharing all during the conference three services a day. I knew that the Holy Spirit was out there working and teaching. You know, I saw the fruit of it. Well I also knew just in case I should have a problem it sure remedied it for me. If someone has Jesus truly revealed to them, you can't think well bless God, that is because I am such a good teacher. You know who is doing the teaching, because you know that they could not get it without him. So you glory in the Lord. You know that if people begin to get it, it is to God's glory. If they don't, there is not a thing in the world that you can do about it.

When you were in the army and you were trying to train these guys and some of them have attitudes and they are going "oh man all I am doing is abiding my time. They have what you call a short-timer's attitude. If you are in for two years and you start getting towards the last six or eight months, and you get what they call a "short-timer's attitude". "I'm a short-timer." He knows that he is going to be out of there soon, and he is not working to build anything. He is not trying to establish this thing. "Let's move forward and take more land." "Could I stay back and peel potatoes?" He has a short-timer's attitude and he does not want to take anything. "I am soon to be out of here baby, I don't want to get in a fight and kill now. I'm going to be gone." Many Christians have a short-timer's attitude. They are just biding their time, trying to get by until Jesus comes back. But you know, when you are enlisted for life, you do not ever get a short-timer's attitude. You know that you are in for life. When I raised my hand to Jesus and said "I solemnly swear..." You saw that cross and you said "man I died there and I have another life, and I am not going anywhere. Lord I am here. Wherever you want me." "Well we are going to transfer you." "That is your business." There is no short-timer's attitude because you do not know how long it will be. You just keep at it and keep at it.

God really does want the kingdom of God on earth. That is what you can continually see in the book of Acts. They preach the gospel of the kingdom. That is more than just getting people saved. It is the lordship of Christ coming into our lives, conforming us to the image of Christ. It is his being able to direct us instead of our own motives and motivations, and "well I will do what you say," but you do it by your own motive. Do you see what I mean? Two grinding, and one is taken. It is like my kids, you know. I say "now go and do so and so." I may be talking to two of them and one says "yes Daddy", and they go over and they do it and I can sense that they have the spirit of what I am saying. The other one says "o'kay" and they go and do it, but you get the feeling that they really do not have the spirit of the thing. They do it, but you are going "I would really rather that you did not do it if that is the attitude that is coming out of you." But when they have the right attitude, now you mommas particularly tell me if that is not the truth. The right attitude is almost better than doing it right. That is precious. Well doing it right

relates to outward. Right attitude relates to inward. The kingdom must come here, in me before I can try to spread it here; before I can try to share it with you. That is why it took eight months before God: It was more than that really, but I say eight months. It was about a year. When I first really began to hear this I went "man I am not going to open my mouth until I get this working in me to some degree where I can say hey the kingdom is coming in me." So I waited and I prayed and I sought the Lord and I didn't want it just to be a neat message or a revelation, but bread. In me, see I wanted to assimilate or eat, and have it become a part of me. Well I have a long way to go. Just like you do. But it is going to work in me.

Active Duty

It is, because God wants it and it is grace. And it is not going to work because I am passive. It is going to work because I am active. That is what it is called when you are on duty, active duty. They do not just call it duty, but they call it active duty. This passive thing that lays back and is waiting for God to zap us is not going to work either. We think of being active, only in the physical but you can be active in the spiritual realm too. Bread for us, really is not relating so much to the physical as what is going to be worked in me in this situation. You face trials or challenges. I was hit the other day with a mess of an amount of people having problems and stuff. Although my soul was going "oh brother," my spirit was going "just think of what you are going to learn out of this. Your sword is going to be sharper than it ever was. You are going to know a little more. You are going to be able to help more people down the road. Well, you are still young. You are only thirty eight man. What if Jesus waits until you are forty eight or fifty eight. You will have learned some things. You will have been through the fire and can say I have been through the fire and I am still alive and I will share with you some of the things that God..." You see, it has to be that attitude of filtering it down. If I die I am passing it on to you. Working to raise up the next generation, working to raise up one another. It has to have a whole other mentality than church just three days a week.

Closing

Let's stand together. I feel like I shared a whole lot of different things. I pray that God will use it. I got off in several different areas there. God wants it to be bread for you. He wants you to be filled. Let me close with this. I started with a scripture, "blessed are they that hunger and thirst...for they shall be filled." Blessed are they that are empty. Let me say this, if you have a coffee cup sitting there and you have just come to eat with somebody and they have a little bit of oil in that. You do not put coffee in that. If they a little bit of something else you don't fill it up, because you want an empty vessel reserved, and then you will fill it. This vessel is reserved to be filled only with coffee. In your life, if you have oil or dirt or something in the bottom of your cup and you are saying "fill me Lord," he is not going to do that because you have other things in there. It is not reserved for him. "This is my cup" Jesus says, "my vessels, my earthen vessels." Have you ever bought a new coffee cup? "This is my cup,". Somebody has lambs and this one is fish, but this one is mine and it is reserved for me. If it has garbage in it, you want it empty so that he can fill it. So you must pray and seek "God, get out this stuff. Get out

this stuff. Get out this stuff. Get out all of it. Don't make me stronger. Make me empty because those are the ones that you fill." Brokenness is what we need and to press into the Lord. It's serious. '

Prayer

Father, we need you. I know that you have told me that your people have been crying out to be filled to the brim, fully inhabited. I know that you told me to tell them that some of the vessels that are yours have other things in them. Even if it is a little bit, you can not pour in because they are not empty. I know that you have told me to tell them that they have been seeking to strengthen instead of become empty. Father, I am asking you by the Holy Spirit to break the word of what you have shared and you have told me to say. That you will break it into bread and not just my teaching. Holy Spirit, you are our teacher and we look to you. We listen to you. We are entrusted unto your care and guidance, and we believe that you will break the bread of life to us. Father I pray that your conviction will come but go beyond conviction. God make it to where it will motivate us to present ourselves as living sacrifices, present ourselves as empty vessels for your service for the excellency of the power is of you and not of us. Father, we ask you to do it in Jesus' name Amen.