

Building Morale and Team Spirit - Part 3

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I. Introduction.

- A. Observations about Gideon.
- B. The ministry of the leader of the band.

II. Principles of warfare related to the warfare of Gideon.

A. Maintenance of the objective.

1. In warfare the most important and difficult thing to do is to identify the objective and then to maintain it.
2. This is the destruction of the enemy's main force in war.
3. A commander is always trying to build up superiority and then attack; if he cannot build up superiority he must withdraw in order to extend the enemy's supply line and then attack. If nothing else works, he uses suicide attacks and attacks supply lines - this is an admission of defeat.
4. Gideon's objective was to defeat the enemy's army.

B. Offensive action.

1. The Devil cannot be defeated on defense.
2. This manifests itself in prayer in the believer's life.
3. The illustration of why the French failed in WWII: a focus on defense.

C. Security. Gideon was able to penetrate the camp.

D. Economy of forces.

E. Cooperation.

F. Mobility.

G. Surprise.

H. Pursuit.

III. Maintenance of the objective. (John 17)

- A. Christ's objective for the band.

1. The world is emphasized. Christ is occupied with the world.
2. The world did not know God.
3. The purpose of the band was that the world would know.

B. Christ not only had a band but a plan for it. The world is part of it.

1. The work that Christ finished in the text has to do with the men that God gave him.
2. He revealed God's self to these men.
3. He gave them the words.
4. He prayed for them.
 - a. That they would be kept.
 - b. That his joy would be fulfilled in them.
 - c. That they would be set apart.
 - d. That they would be united.
5. He sent them.

C. How did it work in the first century?

1. Colossians 1:6, 23.
 - a. Geographically the gospel was effective throughout the whole world.
 - b. It was preached to every creature under heaven.
2. Acts 2:5. Jews were there at Pentecost from every nation under heaven.
3. Secular history: Christians were model citizens in the cities of Rome even as the majority.
 - a. Soon after Christ the Christian population in Rome grew.
 - b. A first century writer said that there was not a nation under the earth that was not offering up prayers to Christ.
4. The plan of evangelism is not touching the population increase today.
 - a. If Billy Graham were given the privilege of leading 100,000 people to Christ a day and the population remained static, it would take him 7,000 years to complete the task.

b. It would only take one Christian 30 years multiplying at 1 Christian a year though.

c. The plan just requires being organized into a few bands of people.

D. How to accomplish the objective as Christ accomplished it.

1. Christ's objective: to reproduce.

2. Southern Baptists example

a. The Southern Baptist's objective is to produce 10 churches per day. They have 30,000 churches.

b. They even acknowledge that they cannot complete the task at this rate.

c. In Hawaii, every member of the Southern Baptist was only reproducing one disciple every ten years.

Application questions.

1. What was the objective that Christ maintained for his followers and how did this work itself out?

2. How do we apply Christ's objective to the twenty-first century? What must remain the same? What aspects need to change?

3. How committed are you to reproducing Christ in other men or women? What are the means by which you do or you should be doing it? Reflect on ways to accomplish Christ's objective today as one sent out by Him.
