



JOHNSON AVENUE
Church of Christ
WHERE *God's Family* BUILDS ETERNAL HOMES

A Spiritual Encouragement Message October 30, 2020

Bringing A Knife To A Gun Fight by Andrew Lemus

One of my favorite scenes from the Indiana Jones series was when Indiana faces off with a swordsman. The guy is big, strong, and can use that sword like nobody's business. After showing his swordsman skills, Indi unamused, pulls out his gun nonchalantly and shoots the guy dead. "Don't bring a knife to a gun fight."



It is just unwise to go into a fight, battle, or war without first considering if you have the appropriate weapons to take on the opposing enemy. The last thing you want to do is find yourself in a situation where your adversary clearly has the upper hand. It is no wonder we see police, military, and all others who "bear the sword" spend a lot of time, effort, and hard work making sure they are equipped with the right weapons and tools to win if they engage in conflict.

This simple principle makes the story of Gideon and his three hundred men even more inspirational (Judges 7). Israel, led by Gideon, faced a Midianite army that was larger and stronger than they were. Their army of over 120,000 swordsmen and countless camels filled the valley like locusts and sand on the seashore (Judges 7:12, 8:10). Compared to Israel's 32,000 men, the Midianites surely had the advantage.

So, what was God's answer to defeat this opponent that exceeded Israel in might, power, numbers, and strength? Take a knife to a gun fight! Or even worse, take a trumpet, an empty pitcher, and torches to a knife fight (Judges 7:16). Sounds crazy right? Oh yeah, God also told them to only take 300 of the 32,000 Israelites to the battle (Judges 7:2-6). How were these men able to come out

victorious even though they were so much weaker, 300 vs. 120,000 weaker? It is the answer to this question that should compel, motivate, and strengthen us today.

They had God on their side! With God on their side Israel didn't need thousands of men, the best physical weapons of warfare, and the best training this world has to offer. Who can withstand, oppose, and defeat an all knowing, all present, all powerful God? Nobody! The message was clear in Israel, it was God that deserved the credit, glory, and honor for defeating the Midianites (Judges 8:22-23). God told them to take an empty pitcher to a knife fight because God has the power to defeat strongholds with the most humble and common vessels (2Timothy 2:21).

God is able to defeat the greatest of armies without you, surely He can carry you along for the ride and defeat the greatest armies with you. Just like He told Israel confront their enemies with pitchers, torches, and horns He tells us to pick up the Bible today. We are surrounded by enemies bound by sin, immersed in ungodliness, and slaves to the prince of the power of the air. Impure speech fills their lips and ungodly fruit is visible for all to see. They are like wild animals, thrashing about, ready to pounce on those that try to approach them. So what is God's answer to defeat this army that is like a valley filled with locusts with weapons like the sands on the seashore? God tells us to pick up His word, proclaim it, and shine a light into the camp of darkness. He tells us to take a knife into a gunfight knowing that the battle, power, victory, and glory are His!

Yes, the odds are against us, the enemy seems insurmountable, but with God on our side we can't lose! Let us march in, like the 300 faithful men of Judges 8, and engage in the spiritual battle that is in front of us.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12