

Don't Starve the Troops in Time of War

By Pastor Kevin Lea – November 7, 2007 – www.calvarypo.org

1 Sam 14:24 And the men of Israel were distressed that day, for Saul had placed the people under oath, saying, "Cursed is the man who eats any food until evening, before I have taken vengeance on my enemies." So none of the people tasted food. -- 27 But Jonathan had not heard his father charge the people with the oath; therefore he stretched out the end of the rod that was in his hand and dipped it in a honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his countenance brightened. 28 Then one of the people said, "Your father strictly charged the people with an oath, saying, 'Cursed is the man who eats food this day.'" And the people were faint. 29 But Jonathan said, "My father has troubled the land. Look now, how my countenance has brightened because I tasted a little of this honey. 30 "How much better if the people had eaten freely today of the spoil of their enemies which they found! For now would there not have been a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?"

As a background to the above verses, the Israelites had been oppressed by the Philistines for decades. Their situation seemed hopeless until Jonathan (King Saul's son) took a step of faith and as a result the Lord caused confusion in the Philistine army. As it became obvious that the Lord was blessing the Israelites with victory as they chased their enemy, King Saul commanded that all the troops must not eat any food. It doesn't take a brilliant military strategist to determine that Saul's order was the height of foolishness. Why starve the troops in the middle of battle?

Psalm 19 describes how the statutes of the Lord (the Bible) are sweeter than the honeycomb. Jesus said that man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4). But how many of God's people are feasting on the Word of God as they prepare for day-to-day spiritual warfare against the flesh, the world and Satan? Also, many Christians are going home from Sunday and Wednesday services famished because those behind the pulpit refuse to feed them the word of God. This too is foolish.

It is obvious to me that the spiritual warfare in families and the Church is getting more and more intense as we draw closer to the last of the last days. Therefore, I pray that you are not acting like Saul and starving yourself or your family from the power to do battle with the enemy. Instead of picking up the TV guide, try dipping your staff in the honey of God's Word (start by reading the rest of the story about Jonathan in 1 Sam 13-14), then let your countenance brighten as you remember the words of Jonathan:

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