

Team Spirit in a Band of Men

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I. Introduction.

- A. "Band of men" was probably first suggested during the time of Saul. (1 Samuel 10:26)
- B. It is frequent in Scripture. (Nehemiah 2:11-12, Acts 20:5, John 18, 1 Chronicles 12:18, 2 Samuel 19:14, Judges 6)
- C. A band of men is a band where strength and effectiveness is compounded because the members have one heart for the task.

II. When the band is needed.

- A. A leader has to have a cabinet - there are many advantages.
- B. If you are hitting the work that God has given you just as hard as you possibly can and you are not accomplishing what you need to, this is a sign you need a band of men to work through.
- C. Leadership is accomplishing your objectives through the efforts of others.

III. The chief minister of the band.

- A. There are high standards for a leader
 - 1. He must be willing to lay down his life for his conviction. Daniel who was willing to go into the lion's den for his convictions (and for Christ) is the example of this. (Daniel 6:10)
 - 2. He must be willing to lay down his life for his followers. (John 15:13)
 - 3. He must be a man of action. God never uses a lazy man. A man must accomplish his mission and effectively utilize all available resources.
 - 4. He has a God given mission that he can substantiate and prove to others. This is best shown through the story of Gideon. (Judges 6)

IV. The members of the band.

- A. Every member of the band must be willing to lay down his life for the other members of the band. This is illustrated through the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. (Daniel 3)
- B. They must be willing to lay down their lives for their leader. (2 Samuel 23:16)

C. They must be willing to lay down their lives for their conviction. Uriah's willingness to give his life for his conviction and loyalty to others is an example. (2 Samuel 11, 1 John 3:16)

D. They must have the heart and skill for the battle. Gideon's army shows that there are few of these. (Judges 7, Job 15:16)

V. The team spirit.

A. People only use part of their potential.

B. High morale is more effective than more men in a battle.

1. Morale is that which is produced as a result of thoughtful concern on the part of the leader.

2. Capacity to appreciate the gifts and powers of widely varying workers is the main quality for oversight.

3. Christ bore with His men and trusted them.

C. Christ showed His disciples His unlimited ability and His unlimited willingness linked by their faith. Followers need to see success in order to gain confidence to follow. (Mark 1:40-41)

D. Christ's final burden was for the world - this was the reason that He came. Christ finished the work by raising up and sending out the men into the world that the Father had given Him. Christ's band of men worked and has worked. (John 17)

E. A stalwart group of men is needed. (Hebrews 10:34)

Application questions.

1. What is the purpose for having a "band of men?" When is it needed?

2. What qualities stand out to you for leaders and men? Are these realistic?

3. How is a band of men developed and maintained? Which principles from the message can you put into practice this week in regards to developing your followers?
