

A Battle in a Barley Field

Theme: Peace, Getting along

Aim: To Show that in warfare, there is always collateral damage - someone is going to get hurt.

1. Several years ago, during the War in the Middle East - Stormin' Norman Schartzkauf often used the phrase "collateral damage."

2. That is unintended damage - collateral - paralleled, accompanying, of secondary nature. In WWII, which was winding down 50 years ago, we saw pictures of much collateral damage in Germany, Japan. But if it was your house, it was not of a secondary nature.

I. 1 Chronicles 10: 13-11: 14

A. Examine the verses, set the stage

1. David just made king.
2. Consolidation of his kingdom.

B. A battle drawn between Israel and the Philistines

1. Took place in a barley field.
2. Can you imagine what the field of barley looked like at the end of battle after thousands of men, horses, chariots, etc. had waged war there?
3. Three things could have happened.
 - a) Save the barley - lose the battle.
 - b) Save the barley - while trying to win the war - but Philistines would have destroyed both!
 - c) Win the war - destroy the barley.
4. Losing the barley was "collateral damage".

II. That made me think – when a battle is waged, there is always collateral damage

A. What collateral damage exists when war is waged in the family?

1. Yes, I suppose, at least legally,
 - a) You have rights in the family, and you can fight for them.
 - b) You can seek to fill only your own needs.
 - c) If need not met, you can seek someone who will meet them.
 - d) You even have right to divorce.
2. But what collateral damage is done? What is the barley ruined?
 - a) Promises made before God and man are broken.
 - b) Extended families are damaged.
 - c) Children are, though resilient, always affected!

B. What collateral damage is done when war is waged in church?

1. Corinth: 1 Cor. 1: 11-13, 3: 1-4.
 - a) No spiritual growth! Babes in Christ.
 - b) Remain carnal - not spiritually mature.
2. John 17:20-23
 - a) An unbelieving world
 - b) Can cause people to be lost.
3. Churches destroyed, families divided, lost not saved and the saved lost!
4. Rather: Ephesians 4: 1-3, 31-32, Phil. 2: 1-4.
5. Romans 14:19, 15:1-7.

1. Remember when war is waged, some barley will be destroyed.

2. If it is you that is the collateral damage, or your church, it is not secondary!

Mike Greene

Etown church of Christ