



THE NOBLE HEART™

March 23, 2009 eLetter

Deployed and Deepened

This past weekend I had the privilege of hearing several men's stories in detail from beginning to present. It's as if I would imagine it would be to walk on the invasion beaches of WW2 today – struck by beauty, innocence, potential, exposure, evil, horror, loss, triumph, heroism, glory and life. Listening to a person's honest story is the best remedy for the malaise of the mundane – a melancholy state where we believe that nothing of significance is really going on. Brent Curtis wrote, "Our experience of life deteriorates from the passion of a grand love affair, in the midst of a life-and-death battle, to an endless series of chores and errands, a busyness that separates us from God, each other, and even from our own thirstiness." Hearing a person's journey unedited and in full color tends to reverse this deterioration that Brent was referring to. We see anew the weightiness of our words and action, our presence and absence, our character and sinfulness, the grace and mercy of God, the kingdom of darkness and the Kingdom of God.

"A grand love affair in the midst of a life-and-death battle." We (I) tend to lose sight of both – the love affair with God and the battle we are in.

I ended the last eLetter with, "God is continually revealing to us the glory of our life as well as developing us into the person who can handle it well. Goethe said, "Talent develops in quiet places, character in the full current of human life." Daily life is where we are taught, trained and tested. It is where we acquire humility, gentleness, patience and love...or not." Permit me to continue with this thought.

As Winston Churchill faced an enemy, a regime, an advancing kingdom of darkness he said, "We live in an age of great events and little men." His intent was not to belittle or disparage his countrymen, but rather to put in perspective the reality in which they lived and to call them up into it. For the times they were living in and the enemy they were facing, they needed to be

more. They needed to become great men. Little men can have talent; great men possess more - humility, gentleness, patience and love.

Jesus said, "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes (wary, wise, cunning) and as innocent as doves (guileless, without falsity, pure)." ^{Matt. 10:16} As a shepherd, Jesus is not gathering us together and keeping the wolves at bay, He is actually sending us into the wolf-packs. In order to accomplish our mission and survive, we must be cunning and without falsity. We must have a restored and trained heart – the heart of a lover and a warrior.

We live behind enemy lines. We "do not belong to the world, [God has] chosen [us] out of the world." ^{John 15:19} We are to be Special Operations Forces which are "specially organized, trained, forces to achieve military, political, economic, or informational objectives by unconventional means in hostile, denied, or politically sensitive areas." Military definition

This talk of mission, an enemy, war, training/preparation is not bravado or hype. It's real, as is the glory of your life.

Jesus prayed, "my prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one...As you have sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world." ^(John 17: 15-17) Jesus was sent, commissioned, deployed into this world with a great mission. He has sent us in the same way. We are to live as pilgrims: traveling lightly but with great purpose.

Do you see the gravity, the weightiness of your life and presence? Have you succumb to the malaise of the mundane? Ask a friend to tell you their story from beginning to present, uninterrupted, for at least one hour. You will see afresh the grand love affair and the life-and-death battle. It will stir your heart and perhaps show you more clearly your own story and calling. It does for me.

Your fellow pilgrim,

Gary