

Hero-Training

September 5th, 2010

Boys should be inured from childhood to trifling risks and slight dangers of every possible description, such as tumbling into ponds and off of trees, etc., in order to strengthen their nervous system.... They ought to practice leaping off heights into deep water. They ought never to hesitate to cross a stream over a narrow unsafe plank for *fear of a ducking*. They ought never to decline to climb up a tree, to pull fruit merely because there is a *possibility* of their falling off and breaking their necks. I firmly believe that boys were intended to encounter all kinds of risks, in order to prepare them to meet and grapple with risks and dangers incident to man's career with cool, cautious self-possession....

—R.M. Ballantyne, *The Gorilla Hunters*

Do not be Careful

Be careful for nothing

The Apostle Paul
Philippians 4:6

merimnaō - me-rēm-nä'-ō

To be anxious; to be riddled with concerns; to be troubled with care

Jesus six distinct times in Scripture gives the command to “Be careful for nothing.” He says, “No Merimnaō!”

1. Matthew 6:25
2. Matthew 6:31
3. Matthew 6:34
4. Matthew 10:19
5. Luke 10:41
6. Luke 12:11

No Merimnaō!

The marching orders for the true believers

I would have you without carefulness

The Apostle Paul
1 Corinthians 7:32

- As Joshua . . . who took a band of wilderness dwellers and sought to take down 31 hostile empires for the Glory of God
- As Caleb . . . who, at the ripe old age of 85, scaled the Mountain of Giants and expelled the three most dreadful and powerful giants in all the land
- As David . . . who strolled into the valley of Elah and took on the greatest warrior of his generation in hand-to-hand combat (with nothing but a sling shot and five smooth stones from the brook)
- As Benaiah . . . who leapt into a pit on a snowy day, to tackle a lion and kill him
- As Paul . . . who marched into Lystra without weapon in hand, was summarily stoned and killed, dragged outside the city, brought back to life, and then marched straight back in to finish the job he'd started
- As God . . . who sent His Son to earth as a Baby, vulnerable and weak, an enemy of the State, hunted and despised, and seemingly illegitimate. Without a scrap of self-serving *merimnaō*, our God pulled off the most extraordinary rescue operation this world has ever seen and will ever see.

Well, Maybe Two Cares . . .

1) The things of the Lord

But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: - 1 Corinthians 7:32

2) The health of Christ's Body

That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. - 1 Corinthians 12:25

For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. - Philippians 2:20

The Heavenly Rule of Care (*merimnaō*)

1. If an errand is commissioned by the Holy Spirit for the Glory of Jesus - just do it! And do it without thought (without a scrap of *merimnaō*) for your life or for the earthly consequences that may follow. Be anxious only that your Lord receive His due.
2. If the “things of Christ” (ie. the Body of Christ, the Word of God, the Truth, the poor, the orphan, the widow, the weak) are under attack and in need of help - carry the burden (*the merimnaō*) as if you are in Gethsemane. Allow the weight of God’s heart to rest upon your own. Care not about the effects that such a strain may cause you, only care about removing the strain upon Christ’s own and seeing them freed.
3. If it is you personally that is facing difficulty (ie. financial challenges, poor health, persecution, etc.), don’t give way to *merimnaō* and spend a moment of care upon it. The rule is “no *merimnaō*” for your own life - If you are to carry *merimnaō*, it is reserved only for the “things of Christ.” But rather, in such difficult situations, rejoice, and look heavenward to your deliverer, who delights to supply everything needed for triumphant life and godliness.

Merimnaō - The Heavenly Oil of Care

the fuel source for the poured-out life

- If we burn our heavenly oil (*merimnaō*) on ourselves, we decay our spiritual man and create space for the enemy to enter our lives and harm us.
 - This is fear-based *merimnaō*. It’s anxious, fretting, and foreboding in its nature.
- If we burn our heavenly oil (*merimnaō*) exclusively for His glory, His sake, and His things, then our life grows bright and warm with the glow of God’s ever-increasing presence.
 - This is burden-based *merimnaō*. It’s selfless, loving willingness to enter harm’s way in order to set right a wrong for Christ’s glory.

The Christian Resolve:

- “This is NOT about ME!”
- “This is ALL about Him!”
- “My life is NOT my own!”
- “Whatever my God asks for, my God gets!”

Upside-Down Wisdom

Preserving God Glory and Not Your Skin

And this is the number of the mighty men whom David had; Jashobeam, an Hachmonite, the chief of the captains: he lifted up his spear against three hundred slain by him at one time. - 1 Chronicles 11:11

The Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same was Adino the Eznite: he lift up his spear against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time. - 2 Samuel 23:8

And David was then in an hold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate! And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David . . . - 2 Samuel 23:14-16a

The Heavenly Rule of Hesitation

- Never hesitate to sprint straight into danger when God’s glory is in the ascendent - this is the believer’s privilege and requirement
- Always hesitate if you sniff a trap for the children of light, if the strong odor of fleshly bait is in the air, hold back - watchfulness is the believer’s guard against the subtlety of the Enemy
- If Spirit - sprint
- If Flesh - hold back