



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017

THE HAPPY SOLDIER

A study in the supreme discomfort and extreme delight found in following aggressively after Jesus Christ



Thrown From the Plane

Have you been trained for the jump?

The Victory Marx Finger Bend

When you know your enemy's weakness, you can exploit it

A Soldier's Letter

Outskirts of Baltimore

My Dear William,

I can now march 20 and 25 miles a day, live on short rations of hard tack, raw rancid bacon, green roasting ears, and cold water - sleep out in the rain having no more than an army coat over me and enjoy myself capitally.

Edward Hastings Ripley
Union soldier, 1861

The Happy Soldier

Built for Battle and Designed to Thrive in-and-amidst Danger

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, **quit you like men**, be strong.

1 Corinthians 16:13

The WWII Soldier

Military discipline is that mental attitude and state of training which **renders obedience instinctive under all conditions**. It is founded upon respect for and loyalty to properly constituted authority. While it is developed primarily by military drill, every

feature of military life has its effects on military discipline. It is generally indicated in an individual or unit by smartness of appearance and action; by cleanliness and neatness of dress, equipment, or quarters; by respect for seniors; **and by prompt and cheerful execution by subordinates of both the letter and the spirit of legal orders of their lawful superiors.**

Army Regulation 600-10

Posted, the 2nd of June, 1942

The Heavenly Soldier

One set-apart for the uncommon work; the consecrated; the happy sufferer; the one made ready to be joyfully spent for the sake of the Jesus Christ

Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift of food from the king followed him. **But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house.** So when they told David, saying, *Uriah did not go down to his house*, David said to Uriah, *Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?* And Uriah said to David, ***The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing.***

2 Samuel 11:8-11

Are You Sleeping at the King's Door?

- The Contented POW - The Happy Sinner
- The Restless POW - The Miserable Sinner
- The Desperate POW - The Sinner in search of a Savior
- The Free Man - The Sinner Transformed by the Savior
- The Begrudging Soldier - The Fearful Follower
- The Dutiful Soldier - The Willing Servant
- The True Soldier - the Happy Sufferer

The Happy Sinner vs. The Happy Sufferer

The Four Lessons of Boot-Camp

The Introduction to the Uncommon Life

1. You Are not the Big-shot Here
2. No Eyeballing
3. No Eye-rolling
4. No Eye-shutting

My Crazy Dream

Eric Ludy joins the Army

Three years ago I had a funny dream. In my dream I decided that I wanted to join the army. However, before I could join, I had to first ensure that my work with the army would still allow me to fulfill my commitments here at Ellerslie. So, as the dream unfolded, I showed up at an army recruitment desk. I mentioned to the officer sitting behind the desk that I would like to join the army but that I already had other commitments. I explained these other commitments and he seemed very excited to have me join and said that we could certainly make it work. In the dream I thought to myself, *"I bet they are desperate for strong leaders like me."* So, from there I was invited into a big courtyard where eighty men were waiting. Almost immediately upon my arrival into the courtyard, an officer stood up in front of everyone and began talking. He mentioned the various places the eighty recruits surrounding him were from. I guessed that he may have heard about my special circumstances and my willingness to serve in the army and, as a result, he might happen to mention it to the other men as a good example. But, to my chagrin, he never brought it up. Then he started saying "army" things, and some of the men were expectant for this and were instant and vigorous in their responses. They seemed to know what he was doing and eagerly participated in his banter. They raised their hands at times that I wouldn't even think of raising my hand. (i.e. - the officer said jokingly, "I'm assuming you all are Christians" - to me this was a joke - but there was a whole group that immediately raised their hands and kept them up, declaring that they were Christians. After a few seconds, I felt awkward that my hand wasn't up, so I raised it half-heartedly to indicate that yes I was one too). Then the officer asked, somewhat muffled and cryptically, for some of the men to go with him to do something undefined. Ten men sprinted to him. I wasn't even considering going. After all, I didn't understand his muffled request. Then the officer simply said, "More!" So others around me started moving, and I found myself moving, too. Now I was a part of this smaller group. The officer said something, and I kind of nodded my understanding, but the guy next to me

belted out “Sir, Yes Sir!” I remember thinking that it seemed a bit overdone to be yelling that, seeing as how we had just started, and we hadn’t even been asked to say that yet. In other words, my pride was struck. I came in thinking I was kind of special, and, to my humiliation, all these punk kids were outshining me right off. And so I found myself justifying why such givenness and readiness was unnecessary in this situation. Next, the officer, laid on the ground. Without explanation. The group fell to the ground and did as he did. I was thinking “how juvenile.” But I did it - realizing that all my college presidenting and my church pastoring had not quite prepared me for this exercise in humility and lowly mimicking.

Entering an Unfamiliar World

Private Ludy,

It looks like it’s time for Sister Peety to visit Iowa. T.S. Tuggs sent the invite, the bags are packed, and Lenore Magoo is joining the visit. No doubt you’ll be sleeping on Vinyl, but just remember Owen Izz when the Vinyl gets rough. And just think, for years Otto Bee has lived in Iowa with his wife, Emmie and their pet Opie Cat, and they have been going strong for two thousand years. You’ll definitely need to learn the ballad, *Arkansas, Arkansas*, for their gardner Stewie sings it all day long. If you ever get in a tough spot, just Dial Jody. She’ll be quick to answer. In fact, so quick that you’ll get Dizzy, Dizzy. There will be moments when you will want to take the easier route through town. But always follow Dr. Mister. For he knows the best path to Grandpa Moe’s place. Sing the *Swan Song* every night prior to bed, and make the Empty Cell your living quarters. Oh, and did I mention that El Two Es will be your roommate. He’s a big guy, and tends to take up most of the bed. Don’t forget to Strike the cheek of the Jebusites prior to leaving every morning and, I can’t stress enough - Always Eat the Beets. Col. Andy will be there in Iowa to answer your questions and he’ll also be your Dentist.

God Speed,

The Heavenly Messenger

Dumbing Down the Call

Without Discipleship, The Luster of the Soldier’s Life is Lost

The Dumbed Down Soldier

One who said a sinner's prayer; one who wears a soldier's uniform; one who has a commander.

Rediscovering the Happy Soldier Life

The Language of the Heavenly Soldier

22 Words Every Happy Soldier Must Know

1. "Iowa"
2. "Sister Peety"
3. "Lenore Magoo"
4. "T.S. Tuggs"
5. "Vinyl"
6. "Owen Izz"
7. "Otto Bee"
8. "Emmie"
9. "Opie Cat"
10. "Arkansas, Arkansas"
11. "Stewie"
12. "Dial Jody"
13. "Dizzy, Dizzy"
14. "Dr. Mister"
15. "Grandpa Moe"
16. "Swan Song"
17. "Empty Cell"

18. “El Two Es”
19. “Strike”
20. “Always Eat the Beets”
21. “Col. Andy”
22. “Dentist”

The Soldier’s Glossary

Knowing the language of the Heavenly Military

- Instinctive Obedience Always

I.O.A. - “Iowa”

- The Pre-decided “Sir, Yes Sir!”

The PD-SYS - “Sister Peety”

- Undying Enthusiasm - the choice to enjoy every moment and not let one moment go unloved - Let Not One Moment Go Unloved

LNOMGU - “Lenore Magoo”

- To Please the Commander - To See The General Smile

TSTGS - “T.S. Tuggs”

- No Special exceptions, No silver-spoon-children - Lowest Place or Bust

LP or Bust - “Vinyl”

- Only One is Special

OIIS - "Owen Izz"

- Oh, to be the First Sufferer

O2BTFS - "Otto Bee"

- Count the Cost - Everything means Everything

EME - "Emmie"

- Constant Energy, Always Given, Always Sprinting, Always eager for more - 100% all the time

OHPCATT - "Opie Cat"

- Always Ready - Always Ruddy

AR-AR - Double "AR" - "Arkansas, Arkansas"

- Spring to Action - Spring to Battle

S2A-S2B - "Stewie"

- Don't leave the Impossible Jobs for the Next Generation - Remember the 800 - Don't Let Jashobeam outdo you

DLJODY - "Dial Jody"

- Don't Set Down that Sword - Eleazer Didn't Let Go the Sword - Cleave to the Sword

DSDS - "Dizzy, Dizzy"

- Always Take the Hardest Assignment - The Most Difficult is the Most Rewarding

The MD is the MR - The Doctor is the Mister - "Dr. Mister"

- Don't Get Distracted by the Giant - Grab 4 More

G4More - "Grandpa Moe"

- Suffer One, Suffer All

SISA - "Swan Song"

- Forsake the Common Life

FT-CL - "Empty Cell"

- Last to Sleep, First to Rise - Ever-watchful, Always the Protector

L2S-F2R - "El Two Es"

- No Man Left Behind

No MLB - "Strike"

- Always Expect to Win - No Matter how dark it gets - When all seems lost - Always Expect the Battle to Turn

Always ETB2T - "Always Eat the Beets"

- No muttering - Bold proclamation - Speak Clear and Distinct

Cl-And-Di - "Col. Andy"

- Always Honorable - Always Noble, Always the Gentleman

AH - "Dentist"

You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

2 Timothy 2:3-4

Not For A Crown

But For His Pleasure

It's just what is reasonable

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, **which is your reasonable service.**

Romans 12:1

It's just what is expected

And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'? But will he not rather say to him, Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink? Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, **We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.**

Luke 17:7-10

And If We Receive a Crown . . .

There is only one place that it can and must go

The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, **and cast their crowns before the throne**, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Revelation 4:10-11

To His Feet

The Dwelling Place of the Happy Soldier

Mary's Place

The Place where the Gospel Comes Alive

Verily I say unto you, Whosoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.

Matthew 26:13

Really Living the Soldier's Life

Private Ludy,

It looks like it's time for "Sister Peety" (The Pre-decided "Sir, Yes Sir!") to visit "Iowa" (Instinctive Obedience Always). "T.S. Tuggs" (To See the General Smile) sent the invite, the bags are packed, and "Lenore Magoo" (Let Not One Moment Go Unloved) is joining the visit. No doubt you'll be sleeping on "Vinyl" (Lowest Place or Bust), but just remember "Owen Izz" (Only One is Special) when the "Vinyl" gets rough. And just think, for years "Otto Bee" (Oh, to Be the First Sufferer) has lived in "Iowa" with his wife, "Emmie" (Everything Means Everything), and their pet "Opie Cat" (100% All The Time) and they have been going strong for two thousand years. You'll definitely need to learn the ballad, "Arkansas, Arkansas" (Always Ready, Always Ruddy), for their gardner "Stewie" (Spring to Action, Spring to Battle) sings it all day long. If you ever get in a tough spot, just "Dial Jody" (Don't Let Jashobeam Outdo You). She'll be quick to answer. In fact, so quick that you'll get "Dizzy, Dizzy" (Don't Set Down the Sword). There will be moments when you will want to take the easier route through town. But always follow "Dr. Mister" (The Most Difficult is the Most Rewarding). For he knows the best path to "Grandpa Moe's" (Grab 4 More) place. Sing the "Swan Song" (Suffer One, Suffer All) every night prior to bed, and make the "Empty Cell" (Forsake the

Common Life) your living quarters. Oh, and did I mention that “El Two Es” (Last to Sleep, First to Rise) will be your roommate. He’s a big guy, and tends to take up most of the bed. Don’t forget to “Strike” (No Man Left Behind) the cheek of the Jebusites prior to leaving every morning and, I can’t stress enough - “Always Eat the Beets” (Always Expect the Battle to Turn). “Col. Andy” (Clear and Distinct) will be there in Iowa to answer your questions and he’ll also be your “Dentist” (Always Honorable).

God Speed,

The Heavenly Messenger

The Heavenly Soldier

The Twice-Born; Indwelled by the Heavenly Soldier Himself - enabled to live a life that otherwise would be impossible; one who doesn’t look to his own strength and courage to do the work, but has learned how to go to Heaven’s war chest for the ability to fight.