



A Quest for Warrior-Priests *Enlisting Warriors to Be Healers and Peacebuilders*

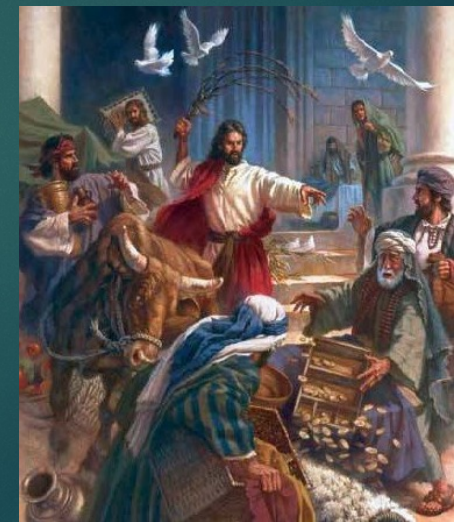
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What is a Warrior

- ▶ Defending others is the calling of the Warrior.
- ▶ CPT Mark Glasgow's Question "If killing is a sin, can a Christian be a Soldier?"
- ▶ Jesus had to have known what Soldiers do, yet he never condemned the actions of Soldiers.
- ▶ The warriors calling is a blessing and a cursing. A blessing because you are created to protect the downtrodden of the world who cannot stand for themselves against the evil that men do. A cursing because you have to fight battles you never wanted in the first place." 1
- ▶ "Violence is rarely the answer, but when it is it is the only answer." The list of violent acts goes on. "Wishing won't make it so." This is true for most of life and is doubly true for stopping and preventing violence. Prepare for violence while praying for peace. 2

God Calls Warriors

- ▶ In Exodus Chapters 2 & 3 Rameses perceived the Hebrews as a threat and resorted to a policy of genocide, having all their male offspring murdered. Rameses' brutality did not go unnoticed by God. God called Moses to be a Warrior to confront this brutality.
- ▶ In the second chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus is Warrior when he expels the merchants and the money changers from the Temple. "This is what Jesus always comes to do. He comes to confront injustice, hypocrisy, exploitation in God's name."
Julie Pennington-Russel 3



The Special Forces Prayer

In 1961 Lieutenant General (Lt. Gen.) William P. Yarborough asked his Chaplain John Stevey to write a prayer for a group of Green Berets who were shipping out to Laos

Almighty God, who art the author of liberty and the champion of the oppressed, hear our prayer.

We the men of Special Forces, acknowledge our dependence upon Thee in the preservation of human freedom.

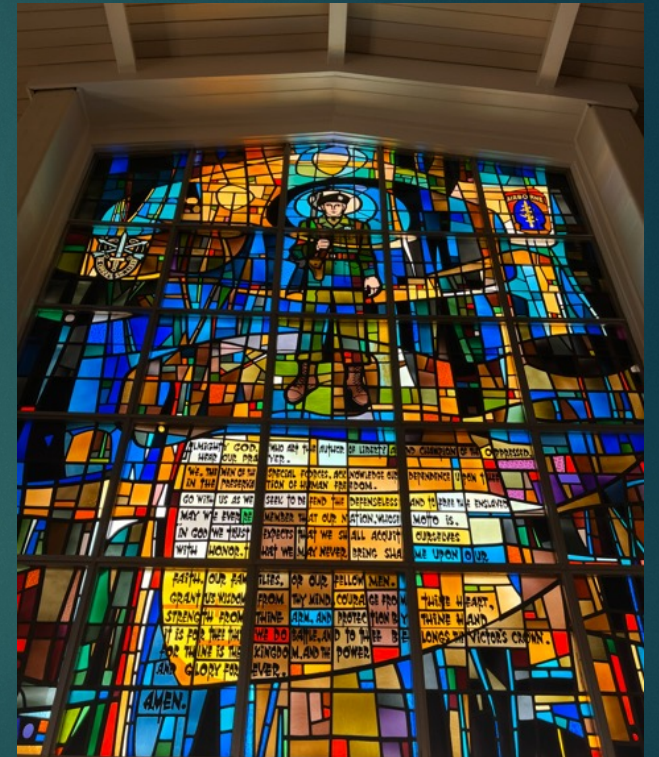
Go with us as we seek to defend the defenseless and to free the enslaved.

May we ever remember that our nation, whose motto "In God We Trust," expects that we shall acquit ourselves with honor, that we may never bring shame upon our faith, our families, or our fellow men.

Grant us wisdom from Thy mind, courage from Thine heart, strength from Thine arm, and protection by Thine hand.

It is for Thee that we do battle, and to thee belongs the victor's crown.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and glory forever, AMEN.



A Chaplain's Responsibility to be a Moral Conscience

- ▶ What about military actions that have nothing to do with stopping evil men or defending the defenseless?
- ▶ This is when it is the Chaplain's responsibility to take the role of the prophet and confront military commanders.

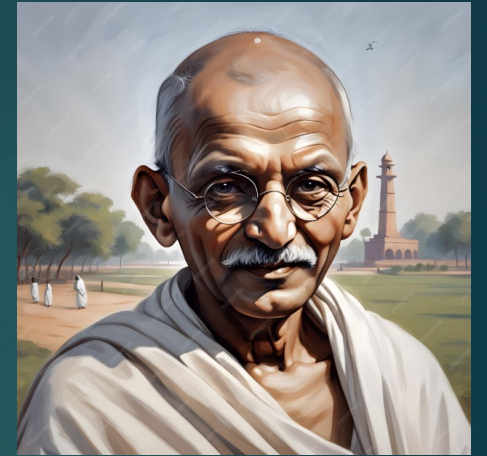


The Calling of a Warrior-Priest

- ▶ The word “priest comes from the Latin pontifex, or “bridge,” A priest is a bridge-- one who stands in the awesome breach between God and man, heaven and earth.
- ▶ Wars may temporally stop conflict but rarely if ever do wars resolve conflict. Only when relationships are healed is conflict resolved.
- ▶ Healing is the calling of the priest. Healing relationships between people and God. Healing relationships between people and people.
- ▶ “Calling into awareness of their own potential and then training the Warrior is the calling of the Warrior-Priest...” 4

Requirements for the Warrior-Priesthood

- ▶ 1) To the best of your ability, to grow in your understanding of and relationship with God and to show your love for God in how you treat your fellow man.
- ▶ 2) To be willing to risk your life to go places where there is conflict to attempt to bring healing.



Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize Winner (2013)



- ▶ In 2012, Malala was shot in the head by Taliban terrorists in Pakistan for her campaign for the education of girls. "In October 2012, a member of the Pakistani Taliban boarded my school bus and shot one bullet into her left temple.
- ▶ She is currently one of the most powerful advocates for education in the world and has become the voice of the more than 60 million girls deprived of education worldwide. She routinely calls on world leaders to "send books, not guns" and has shown that peaceful activism can persevere in the face of violence.

Characteristics of Warrior-Priest

- ▶ The following list of characteristics is not exclusive or exhaustive, but it provides some of the character traits that I believe are found in Warrior-Priests.

1. A Warrior Priest must Learn to be Humble and Dependent

2. A Warrior Priest Strives to Redeem both Individuals and Cultures

* **Individual Redemption** Warrior-Priests must be actively involved in redeeming individual lives (**Unbroken**) The story of Louis Zamperini

* **Cultural Redemption** Warrior-Priests must be actively involved in changing culture. Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa's Sisters numbered nearly 4,000 members and were established in 610 foundations in 123 countries of the world. 5

Characteristics of Warrior-Priest

3. Warrior-Priests are Saved by God's Grace

- * Grace is the reality that God can use Warrior-Priest to triumph over evil, despite their imperfections.
- * Warrior-Priests recognize that it is impossible to be a Warrior-Priest without God's presence at work in and through their lives

4. Warrior-Priests are Willing to Go Wherever God Leads Them Regardless of the Risk or Danger

- * ." Of the thousands of Warriors watching the ocean of suffering humanity, most of whom claimed to be Christians, Kirkland alone had the courage to respond. He alone mustered the courage to be a Warrior-Priest to reach out with compassion to heal an enemy who had killed several of his closest friends.



Characteristics of Warrior-Priest

5. **Warrior-Priest must be Team Players**

* Then General Nicholson paused and with intensity his voice stated. "We cannot allow this to happen to our Army. We cannot allow inner rivalries and personal egos, and misunderstanding, interfere with the success of our mission."

* Once a week the five Chaplains in our Brigade under the leadership of Col-Ret Dan Parker met in the dining facility for breakfast. After breakfast we prayed together.

6. **Warrior Priest should see the world through a Dualistic Lens**

* Chaplain Bill Robinson

He was no longer looking at Muslims through the scope of his M-16



Characteristics of Warrior-Priest

7. Warrior Priest Can Laugh with God.

God is bigger than the boxes in which we confine him.

Incident with General Lloyd Austin



8. Warrior-Priests need prayer companions.

You need a friend to pray with

You need someone praying for you



Characteristics of Warrior-Priest

9. **Warrior Priest Understand the Importance of Blessing.**

Opportunities God provides
Ritual Blessing



References

1. Don S. Lewis, *The Warrior's Codex: Sayings from the Heart of a Warrior* (Standardsville, VA: 22nd Century Institute, 2011), 43&15.
2. Tim Larkin, *When Violence Is the Answer: Learning How to Do What It Takes When Your Life Is At Stake*, (New York: Back Bay Books, 2017),
3. Julie Pennington-Russel, Sermon: "Destruction that Brings Life." First Baptist Church Washington DC, March 7, 2021.
4. Don S. Lewis, *The Warrior's Codex: Sayings from the Heart of a Warrior* (Standardsville, VA: 22nd Century Institute, 2011), 43&15.
5. "Mother Teresa of Calcutta" Mother Teresa Center of the *Missionaries of Charity* website: <https://motherteresa.org/biography.html>, accessed June 21, 2021.

