

The cost of allegiance

Matthew 10:32-39

'Tis mystery all, the immortal dies
Who can explore his strange design?
(Charles Wesley)

The pre-battle speech

1 Chronicles 11:10-24 lists King David's mighty men and their exploits.

What is required of Jesus' mighty men and women?

Warriors must understand the battle plan and know the dangers, or in the fog of war they react in the wrong way, like Peter in Gethsemane.

1. A necessary war
2. A unique war strategy
3. A special kind of warrior

1. A necessary war

The day of your watchmen has come,
the day God visits you.

Now is the time of their confusion. (Micah 7:4b)

Brother against brother (v37) (Like Earnest Salter)

A war which engulfs the world, the “War to end wars”

Time to choose a side!

2. A unique war strategy

Non violence!

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (NIV 2 Cor 10:3–5)

2. A unique war strategy

An appointment with death! (v39)

A dead man walking (v38)...

If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?
(NIV Lk 9:23–25)

... every day!

2. A unique war strategy

The right death!

For who knows what is good for a man in life, during the few and meaningless days he passes through like a shadow? Who can tell him what will happen under the sun after he is gone? (NIV Eccles 6:12)

However many years a man may live, let him enjoy them all. But let him remember the days of darkness, for they will be many.

Everything to come is meaningless. (NIV Eccles 11:8)

2. A unique war strategy

The right death!

His dying crimson, like a robe
Spreads o'er the body on the tree
Now I am dead to all the globe
And all the globe is dead to me.

(Isaac Watts)

3. A special kind of warrior

The mode of war determines the skill set of the warrior

Stormtrooper

Sniper

Drone pilot

Bomber pilot

Submariner

Secret agent

What kind of warriors does Jesus seek?

3. A special kind of warrior

Warriors wanted!
Must be (Matt. 5)...

Meek

Peacemaking

Merciful

Hungry and poor

May be persecuted like the prophets

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (NIV Mt 10:39)