

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY



REAL COMMITMENT— STORMING THE GATES (Part 1)

When a king wished to defeat another city, if that city was fortified and walled, he knew there was no easy way to assault the walls and succeed. Therefore, the armies would “lay siege” to the city. This meant the armies would surround the city and keep anyone and any supplies from coming in or going out. The city would have its gates shut tight. The citizens and defending army would stay inside the city, hoping to wait out the attacking army.

It likely was a fairly boring event for those outside the walls. Maybe the soldiers threw stones at a target to bet on who could get closest. The biggest excitement around this time might be if the king wanted a catapult built so they could try hurling a few boulders into the city or maybe even get close enough to try arrows. But, this kind of attack doesn’t take much in the way of commitment. There isn’t a whole lot of risk. There isn’t much of a measure of just how committed the soldiers really were to their king at this point in time.

Occasionally, time would run out on the attacking army before it did the city, such as with winter coming on. So, the king might decide to select a few of his soldiers (probably those who lost the rock tossing bets) to storm the gate.

They hoped to break the gate open, or at least weaken it. Of course, the defending army knows this could happen and their greatest defense would be at the gates.

If the attacking army tried to storm the gate, it was almost a sure death, especially for the first one or two attempts. So, the first guys the king pointed to knew they were almost surely going to die just so someone else later may get through. When the king chose his first soldiers to storm the gate, you find out just how committed they are to their king.

Commitment is essential, even if we think there is little for us to accomplish. Those that picked up the ram and stormed the gate first were sold out, ready to die if needed for their king. They understood the costs for victory and were willing to pay that cost.

Read Isaiah 37: 31-32

Did you see this happened with just a remnant? It wasn’t that the Lord’s armies were superior in number. His armies were superior in commitment. That is a big deal!

We all have heard the word “commitment” applied to many situations. And, we all like to consider ourselves committed to the things which matter most, especially our families and our faith. Jesus gave us an explanation of faith

truly committed to Him as King.

Read Matthew 22:36-40

In these verses we hear Jesus tell us that most important commandment is to:
love the Lord _____ with:

All your _____, All your _____, and All your _____.

Why does Jesus say “your God” in this scripture? What does “all your heart, soul, and mind” mean to you?

Is Jesus really **your God**? Does He really have **all of your heart, soul, and mind**? Maybe today is the time to **make Jesus your God**? Maybe today is the time to identify some area of your life that isn't fully **committed to Him** and make that **commitment**?