

All IN: Rich Young Ruler

(Mark 10:17-22)

Introduction

Joshua Chamberlain was a student of theology and a professor of rhetoric, not a soldier. But when duty called, Chamberlain answered. He climbed the ranks to become colonel of the 20th Main Volunteer infantry Regiment, Union Army.

On July 2, 1863, Chamberlain and his three-hundred-soldier regiment were all that stood between the confederates and certain defeat at a battlefield in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. At 2:30 pm, the 15th and 47th Alabama infantry regiments of the Confederate army charged, but Chamberlain and his men held their ground. Then followed a second, third, fourth and fifth charge. By the last charge, only eighty blues stood standing. Chamberlain, himself, was knocked down by a bullet that hit his belt buckle; but the thirty-four-year-old schoolteacher got right back up.

It was his date with destiny.

When Sergeant Tozier informed Chamberlain that no reinforcements were coming and his men were down to one round of ammunition per soldier, Chamberlain knew he needed to act decisively. Their lookout, a young boy perched high in a tree on Little Round Top, informed Colonel Chamberlain that the confederates were forming rank. The rational thing to do at that point, with no ammunition and not reinforcements, would have been to surrender. But chamberlain wasn't wired that way. He made a defining decision that turned the tide of the war and single-handedly saved the union. In full view of the enemy, Chamberlain, climbed onto their barricade of stones and gave a command. He pointed his sword and yelled, "Charge!"

His men fixed bayonets and started running at the Confederate army, which vastly outnumbered them. They caught them off guard by executing a great right wheel. And in what ranks as one of the most improbable victories in military history, eighty Union soldiers captured four-thousand Confederates in five minutes flat.

What seemed like a suicide mission saved the union.

Historians believe that if Chamberlain had not charged, the rebels would have gained the high ground. If the rebels had gained the high ground, there is a good chance they would have won the Battle of Gettysburg. If the rebels had won that battle, the historical consensus is that the Confederates would have won the war. One man's courage saved the day, saved the war, and saved the Union.

After the war, Joshua Chamberlain went on to serve as the thirty-second governor of Maine and the president of his alma mater, Bowdoin college. In 1893, thirty years after his act of heroism, he was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Grover Cleveland for "holding his position on the Little Round Top against repeated assaults, and carrying the advance position on the Great Round Top."

In his later years, Chamberlain would reflect back on the war with these words: "I had deep within me the inability to do nothing. I knew I may die, but I also knew that I would not die with a bullet in my back" (via ALL IN by Mark Batterson)

Joshua Chamberlain is an example of someone who was "ALL IN."

Contextualize the series "All In." The major truth of this series is , *"If we hold out on God, we'll miss out on everything God wants to do in us, for us, and through us!"*

For the next few Sundays, we are going to notice several Biblical characters who validate that truth!

We are going to examine men, who were ALL IN for Jesus Christ. These were men who committed themselves fully to Christ with no Plan B, no reserve, and no regrets. These were men who God used for His kingdom. But understand, God desires for all of us to have that type of abandonment to the cause of Christ.

Contextualize this sermon. Today, we are going to notice a negative example in the person of the Rich Young Ruler. He held out. Of all the people that Jesus invited to "follow me", the Rich Young Ruler is the only one that refused to follow Jesus.

I. His Assumptions

A) Keeping Rules = Spirituality.

B) Success = Being Right With God.

(He saw his wealth as evidence that his good works made him acceptable to God. In select OT passages, God told His people that normally, He blessed righteousness with physical prosperity.)

(The problem is that he loved his blessing more than the Blessor.)

C) I Am In Control.

Too many modern believers have assumed the posture of God following them, instead of them following God. Every thing about you belongs to God.

II. Jesus' Instruction

A) Abandon What's Holding You Back

B) Prioritize The Eternal Over The Temporal

C) Follow The Savior

Being ALL IN requires a ever-deepening love for Jesus, a childlike trust in the heavenly Father, and a blind obedience to the Holy Spirit.

III. The Ruler's Refusal

A) He Would Not Abandon His Security

"No good thing does God withhold from those who walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11).

B) He Was Afraid of Missing Out Now

Self-denial is shorthand for delayed gratification.

C) He Would Not Accept the True Calling Of The Gospel.

In many ways the modern church has cheapened the gospel by allowing people to buy in without selling out. The modern church has made it too convenient, too comfortable.

We do not know, as the saints of old, the surge of holy adrenaline that courses through the veins when one decides to follow Him no matter what, no matter where, no matter when.

Conclusion