

Guarding the Baggage

This article is from the "Edifying the Body" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of July 20, 2019.

By Lenny Cacchio

LEE'S SUMMIT, Mo.—Do you think you're not that important? Do you think your contribution to the world is meager? There is a story in Scripture that might help you see things in a different light.

David the king took 600 of his men on a military campaign against the Philistines. It was an exhausting march, and 200 of his soldiers couldn't continue, so David left them to guard the supplies while the remaining 400 continued on to the battle.

David's 400 won the battle, rescued the hostages and returned with massive spoils of war.

The question then arose: Should the men who stayed behind to guard the supplies receive the same split of spoils as those who fought the battle?

Let's pick up the story in 30th chapter of 1 Samuel:

1 Samuel 30:22—"But the evil men and troublemakers among those who followed David said, 'Since these two hundred men didn't go with us, we shouldn't give them any of the things we recovered. Just let each man take his wife and children and go' " (New Century Version).

It seems to make sense that those who bore the heat of the battle should get all the booty. But David sees the world differently.

1 Samuel 30:23-24—"No, my brothers. Don't do that after what the LORD has given us. He has protected us and given us the enemy who attacked us. Who will listen to what you say? The share will be the same for the one who stayed with the supplies as for the one who went into battle."

Those men who were guarding the supplies performed a valuable service. With them on guard, marauders would be unable to steal their baggage. They provided the important logistical support every army needs to survive.

David understood this, and as a leader he knew the importance of recognizing that every part of that team contributed to its success.

We have many members in one body, but the members do not all have the same function (Romans 12:4).

Recently I injured my pinky finger on my right hand. I can say with confidence that I never paid much attention to my pinky on my right hand. When I wake up in the morning, that's not my first waking thought.

But I can tell you that I sure notice how important that finger is when I can't grasp things the same way I once could, and I start dropping things from my right hand that present no problem with the left.

This is not to compare anyone to a pinky finger. It is to say that what you can contribute is more than what you might think.

You might not have a glamorous job. You might not be the center of attention. And you are not likely world-famous. But one thing is certain. Staying back and guarding the baggage is an honorable assignment. And it deserves the same appreciation as any other job.

Never, never, never underestimate your importance. And don't let anyone else do that to you either.