

Pine Valley 2009 Assembling the Armada Disc 4

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SPEAKERS

Jerry Leachman

J Jerry Leachman 00:00

That guy's a hero to me. I'll tell you what Ada accepted Christ at 86 Never too late to do what's right. I'd sign up for that right now. You know, a lot of people your age, don't know what's going on. And when you hit 90, you're in the fourth quarter. Now, when you hit 90, it's what we call overtime brother. OT. President Bush told me one time his father, who was also a president, I didn't know if you knew that. He was visiting a nursing home in Florida and he was the sitting president at the time and he proceeds to gals in a chair and he was the president of the United States. He didn't want to blow him away. So politely said to these two little gals in the chairs Excuse me, but do you guys know who I am? When I'm looked at said No, sir, we don't. But if you go out there at the front desk and ask them, they'll tell you who you are right out there.

J Jerry Leachman 01:07

You know, when I closed this morning, I was referencing that I would I pray for my children. I had a man who was that man. Tell me your name again, bro. Gordon was telling me about his father in law was still you know, in reference to me, telling you about my prayer life, how I pray for all my wife, my children, my grandchildren in slow motion. And he said his father in law had when they got all the kids and the cousin 4043. And he prayed for them by name every day, two times a day. When he was dying, he was kind of semi comatose. And, and they just thought this is it. All the family was gathered around. They saw His lips moving. And they thought he was given some maybe some just a last word or something. And they just leaned slowly and to hear in his last work. He was at number 17 on the list praying for him. Now listen, that's a shepherd right there a good shepherd that lays down his life. I don't know if you saw the movie Facing the Giants. But a couple of my favorite scenes is when that dad who was who was infirmed he was crippled and he was in a wheelchair. And he got his son was the kicker who lacked confidence and he got in the endzone. Do you remember that scene? And he stood like that. I think that's why my family, they laugh at me because because I feel forbidden to pray with a hat on because God told me to take there have no covering on their head for support. So so when I pray on the sidelines, I'll I take my hat off and like I was telling you I always look up if I see some my family in the stands out there like that. But Tucker always looks at me and does like that when he's on the on the field. I never pray my son would win again. I pray that God

would use him I pray that he would be brave Pray, he would be a brother, he would be redeemed whatever that means, you know, and so I just pray for him and pray for him again, if I don't do it, will the other scene I enjoyed I call that Baptist Church that makes those movies in Georgia. Because when you first I never saw a movie like that was kind of homemade, and they didn't have real actors. So it took my buddy and I have another Jewish buddy of mine who's accepted Christ, we went and it took us 20 minutes to get used to the fact that there weren't real actors in there, then we kind of liked it. And and so I call that church, I said, I want to use part of that with our Redskins coaches. Do you mind and they'll go, you are awesome. Go ahead, you know, because all these Christians with their egos are like, going to court over the rights to their songs and their man, this is for the Lord, you know, y'all to be flattered. I mean, if I gave a talk and somebody stole it gave the exact same talk, that's the highest form of flattery. Plus, if they're sharing Christ, go do it do within mine, I stole it from somebody to begin with. So they said do anything you want. Well, we were playing the Dallas Cowboys, and in our stadium in FedEx stadium. And so there was a scene there in that movie where that coach was really just discouraged. And there was like this guy who was like the school prophet, and he would go through the school and pray for the lockers and pray up and down the hallway. Well, which we do. My wife has a group of women that goes out to our local high school and they walk the boundaries, the property boundaries of that high school, they pray for it. They go in the dining hall, and put their hands on every chair and pray for every kid, whoever that kid will be. That'll be sitting in that chair. They do stuff like that. And so I was given our coaches a lesson in this. And just to try to stretch our faith there again, I don't I don't pray for wins, exactly. Hope for him. Maybe I do, because God knows what I'm thinking. But if I don't, who else will write? The this prophet kind of told this coach, he said, Coach, you've decided you've told your team, you're going to start praising God when you win, and you're going to start praising God when you lose, in whatever place you find you're in good times, stuff times. You're going to praise God, he said, a coach, God's going to bless you. And Coach, the coach said, How can you say that everything's going wrong? He said, Coach, there was a severe drought in the land. And God revealed through a profit to two farmers. It's gonna rain. Rains coming when there was no sign of rain. He said, Coach, one of the men went and prepared his land for rain the other day. He said, Coach, which one of them had faith in God? He said, The man that prepared his ground for rain. Now, I told Coach Gibbs and our coaches, I said, Amen. We gotta go by faith here. Now let's start, let's prepare for rain. Or why are we doing this? Why do you show up every day? And so they kind of caught the vision a little bit? Well, we get out there. And Dallas basically is whipping our butt for three quarters. And, but it was a close game. And I thought I regretted given that lesson, by the way, at the end of the third quarter, because I thought, you know, this is stupid. We're gonna get our butts whipped, you know. And they went down, and they got to about our 36, which would have been a chip shot for their kicker, he was so good. He goes in there. And that thing is blocked. by one of our special teams guy we had just signed three days before, because somebody got hurt. Nobody even knew the dude's name. He blocks it and Shawn are all pro safety, who was murdered last year, picks it up, starts running down the sideline, he runs right in front of our sideline, and we had to lead or we had to run out the clock to when he ran it all the way down to about our 20. And I'll never forget I jumped out on the sideline and on the field, I looked down on the sideline and all of our coaches got about two yards out on the field pointed at me and said it's raining dude, it's raining. There are certain times in life where you have to assume God has orders for you. My mentor of Pete McKenzie and mine, Howard Borland told us one time that he was in the Navy in World War Two in San Diego. They came in with sealed orders. And they had to get on their ship, no lights, no radio, and they left at one in the morning and the pitch black of night with a bearing do west towards Japan. They didn't know who was going. They didn't know what the plan was. Mr. Boylan, one of our mentors when we were young Christians, he taught Pete night. He was on the bridge that night. He said as light approached, there was a dark grey and then a medium

gray and then a light gray. And then as the dawn came, he looked around and he saw the outline of ship after destroyer after carrier after ship. And he says my gosh, he realized they were in the middle of the biggest Armada at that time that had ever been assembled by the United States Navy. He said boys, I believe the day is going to come when God's gonna assemble an armada of men who mean business men who are ready to go to war. And he said now it's going to happen. The Promise Keepers isn't going to organize it no religious groups going to organize it every revival they've ever studied. There's been no mark of any denomination or any religious group on it. It's just blowing of the Holy Spirit through the land. I honestly believe as with this is my last roll call with you today. The God is assembling an armada as I go around the country of men who are willing to travel under secret orders from their commander in chief the Lord Jesus Christ. And there are men that are ready to go to war. There are men that are ready, ready to lay down their life for their brothers. Now Joe walk up to me and he said, Jerry, you really ought to close out, I've changed. My takeaway here. He said, you know, Sam's written this amazing song Band of Brothers, we talk about it refer to ourselves. But a lot of the fellas may not have known that first talk you gave us what was it eight years or so ago, about the band of brothers and what that can mean. I want to close out by just bringing the rest of you up to speed. In regards to the unit here, to our fire team, we have Ambrose wrote what is now a classic piece called Band of Brothers. HBO did a 10 part series on it, maybe you've seen some of it. It's about men of the 100. And first airborne, Easy Company, ie the Screaming Eagles. You ever heard of those guys? Well, there they are right there.

J

Jerry Leachman 10:54

The men at Easy Company, the 506, Parachute Infantry Regiment 100. And first Airborne Division. United States Army came from different backgrounds, different parts of the country. Some were farmers, some were mountain men, some were sons of the Deep South. Some were desperately poor, some from the middle class, one came from Harvard, one from Yale and one from UCLA. The only one, only one of them was from the old army. A few came from the National Guard or the reserves, but they were citizen soldiers. The reason that's important is that means let me translate that for you. They were just ordinary guys. They were not the Hitler Youth. Somebody in our military got all this straight from the Scripture. Because Hitler completely underestimated these fireteams. These men that came to that came together as brothers, their power became exponential. He had the Hitler Youth groom from childhood, but they weren't organized in bands of brothers. They had nice uniforms and nice guns, and no souls. They came together in the summer of 1942, by which time the Europeans had been at war for three years. By the late spring of 1944. They had become an elite rifle company. And they became airborne. Early in the morning of D Day, their first day in combat action, Easy Company captured and put out of action, a German battery of four 105 millimeter guns that were looking down on Utah Beach. I'll tell you why that means something to me. June 1944, my father was on Utah Beach with the 82nd airborne it point to hawk. I honestly believed that the men and the picture I just showed you had they not taken out those guns, they would have killed my father, I wouldn't be here today. I'd have no children, no grandchildren. Isn't it interesting, the impact when people step up and fulfill their destiny, that it has on generations upon generations, there's a lot on the line upon the decisions you make. You're not just making some little narcissistic decision to stop being a conspicuous sumo and now you're going to be some hyper religious guy. You're making a decision to become a warrior for Christ. And make the way for generations to come. They say a great man. A visionary will lay his life down for something that may not even come to pass till after he's gone. These men took those 405 millimeter cannons out their first day on the job. Let me just give you the rest of their resume in

the war. They lead the way into the keratan. They fought in Holland. They felt they held a perimeter at the Battle of the Bastogne. They lead the counteroffensive in the Battle of the Bulge. They fought in the Rhineland campaign and at the end of the war, these are the guys that took eager Hitler's Eagle's Nest. It had taken almost 150% casualties and at the peak of its effectiveness in Holland in October 1944 and the ordains in July 45. It was as good a rifle company is there was in the world these ordinary guys from ordinary places and ordinary backgrounds came together. And they became the best there was the best rifle company airborne in the world. Ambrose studied these men he went back and interview the surviving members of the 100 and first airborne by the way I want you to know So I gave this talk not too long ago and an old man hobbled up to me with two canes didn't know who he was out of respect for his age, I stood there. And when he got to me, kiss me on the cheek. fears were coming down his face.

J

Jerry Leachman 15:18

He said, Jerry, you keep preaching that I'm one of those guys. He said it happened, Just like you're telling it. What was it about these guys? Well, Ambrose decided they were special in their values. They put a premium on physical well being a hierarchy of authority and being part of an elite unit.

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Jerry Leachman 15:45

They were idealist they were eager to merge themselves in their group fighting for a cause. Can you think of a better cause than our cause the cause of Jesus actively seeking an outfit with whom they could identify, join and be part of and relate to as their family. They volunteered for the paratroopers. They went airborne. But they volunteered to jump out of airplanes for two profound reasons first, and Robert Raiders words the desire to be better than the other guy took hold. Each man in his own way had gone through what Richard Winters experienced. A realization that doing his best was the better way of getting through the army than hanging around with the sad excuses for soldiers they saw in the recruiting depots and basic training. They wanted their army time to be positive, alerting a mature experience. Second, they knew they were going into battle. Most men I see, you'd think they think we're gonna go all go for Jesus and lay around in the Caribbean. On the beach. They don't get it. it's game on. They knew they were going into combat. They didn't want to go in with poorly trained, poorly conditioned, poorly motivated draftees on either side of the choose between being a paratrooper spearheading an offense and an ordinary infantry men who couldn't you couldn't trust the guy next to you, they thought the greater risk was with the infantry. Isn't that interesting? When the shooting started, they wanted to be able to look up to the guy beside them not down. Now, that's what I told you last night. Men hear this your inner circle in your life will make or break your life.

J

Jerry Leachman 17:43

If you surround yourself with a bunch of candies, you're gonna be a candy. And I'm not talking about athletic ability. I'm not talking about muscles or skill.



J Jerry Leachman 17:56

I'm talking about what's in your heart. But if you surround yourself with men who want to be warriors for Christ, who want to be risk takers for Christ, that's who you will become Jesus said this. If the blind follow the blind, will they not both fall into the ditch for the student is not greater than his master. Your master is whoever you allow or whatever you allow to influence you. That's your master. He said for when the student is fully instructed, he will be exactly like his master. Now I taught my son Tucker. Take a good look at who you're allowing to influence you. Because wherever they're going, that's where you're going. 100% Whatever they're like, that's who you're going to be 100% You don't mess with this stuff. And that doesn't impact you. Think carefully about who is in your inner circle. They will make or break your life. These guys wanted an inner circle who wanted to be elite, who wanted to be the best. If we're going to do it, why not do it? I have a little saying and our family Life's too short to ski on slush. Let's go. We're doing powder if it kills us philosopher Glen grey. In his classic work the Warriors got it exactly right organization for a common and concrete goal in peacetime organizations does not evoke anything like the degree of comradeship commonly known in war. At its height, this sense of comradeship is an ecstasy between brothers. Men are two true comrades only when each is ready to give up his life for the other without reflection without thought of personal life. One of the men interviewed talked about the officer corps that Lead them. He said these men, as one private said, they were leaders we respected. They were leaders we would follow anywhere. Another one said we couldn't believe that people like Captain winters, and these others existed. These were first class people. And to think these men would care and share their time and efforts with us seemed a miracle. They taught us to trust. They turned our lives around. Yep. And winners should have won the Congressional Medal of Honor. He said to himself and to his men forever lived through this I'm going to retire and just live a quiet life on a little farm in Pennsylvania and you know where he is today. He's living a quiet life on a little farm in Pennsylvania. One of his friends asked me to meet with him this fall. Hope he lives that long because I'll be meeting one of my lifelong heroes, Captain Richard Winters. 101st airborne, he was a Screaming Eagle. Now, here's the thing. You know, airborne was all volunteer. you volunteer to get in and you know when you could quit anytime you want. If you lost your stomach, you say I quit and they go we don't want you anyway. You know what you're really voting on and the way I work and the way I counsel minutes I give them menu, and I find a guy with a good heart if I give them a correct menu and accurate menu that all them will almost always make the right choice. Here's your menu for the day is your takeaway. You're voting on being an Airborne Ranger or a draftee? not know this, an Airborne Ranger rather jump out of a plane at night over enemy territory spread across an open field while he assembles his weapon and spearhead the charge rather than hanging out with a bunch of draftees. You know why? He doesn't want to be around a bunch of draftees, a draftees main goal is simply to cover his butt to the war's over. Those guys don't help win it. These guys win wars now Are you the kind of man that's kind of man is going to help do something in the spiritual warfare we have going on, you're either going to be airborne or you're going to be a draftee. Now I was teaching this one time and a brother had another his brother was in the 82nd airborne, I didn't know it. He just said, Hey, I brought my brother to this retreat. He's been kind of hostile, believes in God, but he didn't care for Christianity much. And he's never been to a Christian thing in his life. Now, he didn't even know that Christian protocol or politeness or any of that stuff, right in the middle of the message. He just jumped

J Jerry Leachman 22:51

up and went, Oh, yeah. Obviously, I stopped and I said, What's on your mind?

J

Jerry Leachman 22:59

He said was not. Let's go ahead. He said, I'm in the 82nd airborne. And he turned to the man and he pointed to me said what that guy's saying is right. If you get with a band of brothers, your power will exponentiated. The Bible says this, If one can chase 1002 can chase 10,000 and algebra, they call that an exponential equation. you graph it like that. Like an F 16 does that and it goes that. He says, I'll tell you, you get on a plane and you're heading for a drop zone. Man, you're so heavy, you'll take anything those guys give you any can of beans and extra bullets because you don't know when you're going to get anybody you're seeing and you're going out in the jungle or somewhere you take everything. Some guys are looking at pictures of their girlfriends. Some guys are sleeping, some guys are throwing up because they're sick. Then the light turns yellow, Buddy Check. He said you, you kind of get up and get your legs and he said you turn towards the back of the plane. Now your life's in the hands of the guy behind you because he's checking all your equipment. His life depends on you because you're checking him. It goes all the way down and the jumpmaster will catch the last guy. Then the light turns green door. Door open light green doors open light green. That's what I'm telling you today as I close this out boys, the doors open and the lights green don't freeze your asset the door. You got to get out the door. Or you will regret it for the rest of your life. Because you weren't in the battle with the men. I am your best friend. I know you think I'm a hard coach. I'm your best friend. You're gonna thank me one day if you get out that door. You will regret not being in this battle.

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Jerry Leachman 24:55

He says then the jumpmaster starts to cave and who've hit the We're gonna get a get a rhythm. The first guy's out so the line starts to move.

J

Jerry Leachman 25:09

He said, I gotta tell you when you got all that load and you're in rhythm with your band of brothers, and they're going out like that 100% You're going out the door

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Jerry Leachman 25:23

out the door. Now I have interviewed, I've had a lot of airborne, airborne guys, former airborne with us today. These are the first guys to say amen. I've interviewed airborne Rangers. I've had I have a lot of military guys in my group in Washington. I said, if you're by yourself in that plane, at night, do you go out and you know what they say? Maybe Yeah. Maybe no. If you're with the band of brothers 100% I'm going out. I'll tell you you get with a band of brothers. You stay with him. You go deep. You keep bouncing from group to group guy to guy, you stay shallow. You run deep. There's a Russian proverb when old friends better than 100 new friends. If you're not in a band of brothers, get in one. Don't sit around and wait for your church or some religious group. Do it be a man. Our family motto? The Leachman family motto winners take responsibility losers blame others. We have another one. You can fake Karen but you can't fake showing up. So much in life is showing up. And when you're in a band of brothers, the day will come. When God's going to ask you to do something you may like it. You may not like it, it may

be hard, it may be tough. Paul said this in Second Timothy, endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. He told Timothy fight the good fight, wage good warfare. You may not like it, it may be hard. God may ask you to do something. You know what, you'll do it. Because you're a soldier. You'll do it because you're a soldier. Your commander in chief is the chief Shepherd Jesus Christ. Now I'm going to tell you one little story and have a prayer for you. That day, I remember being on the campus at the University of Alabama, right down University Avenue with an all conference all Southeastern Conference cornerback named Bobby, he was the fastest guy on our team, like for three. And we were riding along in his Volkswagen. Now you remember, everybody's had a Volkswagen at least once. Remember those little Beetles. We used to have a saying about those things. They warm up just about the time you get there. We went by the Ka house where Bobby and I had done most of our party and but we'd found Christ. We were about one year old Christians at the time. And I think it was Friday after the walkthrough. So we had a few hours before we had to go and go with a team and head out to the hotel where they kind of quarantine you the night before the game. And Bobby looked over at the Ka house and said let's go in there and tell all of them about Jesus. It's dinnertime. They'll all be assemble, drank in that beautiful southern cocktail iced tea. I said, Well, Bobby, nobody trained us to witness nobody told us to witness. We just felt that it was important that they hear about Christ. I said, You know, Bobby, I'm on the team. But you're all SEC, who's gonna give the talk? He said, I'd give the talk. I said, Bobby, I'm with you on this. Well, we walk in there and they see us and the president of the KE fraternity stands up and says, Oh my gosh, fellas, two members of the Alabama Crimson Tide, they start cheering. He taps his tea glass. Whole dining hall goes silent. Now I'm sure they thought we were going to come in there to give him one of those. We'll hope you all come out support us tomorrow against Tennessee. You know one of those things

J Jerry Leachman 29:24

and we got and so Bobby says, we're here to talk about Christ. And I'm telling you got real serious and like half a second and then he started to talk and he got so nervous. His voice went up and a half a sentence he had no voice and he looked at me and did that

J Jerry Leachman 29:55

I'd never give any talk to anybody. You know, I mean last time they saw me, you know, I was like doing the alligator across the dance floor or something, you know? And I remember my talk. I said, Well, guys, here's what it is. I know y'all think you're cool because your k a's and man I know I'm one of you. But truth is, if you're in a car and you're going down the road, you hit a telephone pole. It's the speed of that car plus the weight of your body plus the distance of you, between you and that dashboard. God doesn't care if you're Kay or the Pope or Rome. Thank you. Yep, that was my talk right there. They sat there in silence and looked at me just like you did. We looked at Bobby did like that and walked out of the dining room. That when we got out to the parking lot, we got back to his Volkswagen. And his voice came back. And he said, Jerry, you forgot to mention Jesus Christ. And I said, Oh, now you're critiquing my talks. I'll admit, I don't know if we did more harm than we did damage that day. Who knows? We can just trust God with that. We totally screwed up everything. I mean, this was not exactly Billy Graham's finest presentation. But do you know why that day's dear to me? Today, Bobbi, and I went airborne. Today, we got our wings. We got back in his car. And we looked at each other and we said, let's pray that if we ever backslide to the point where we just embarrassed and

Shane Jesus Christ, if we ever backslide in our faith, to the point where people mock God and laugh at Christ because of us, let's pray God would kill us first. Because it'd be better to die in fellowship with Christ than to live out of fellowship with Christ and we pray that prayer that day. I've had my ups and downs, but I've never apostatize you know, there's a famous poem written by William Shakespeare, in remembrance of a famous and an epic battle. In the battle was so monumentous it was celebrated every day at the feast of Crispian.

J Jerry Leachman 32:32

It was in the play Henry the Fifth it describes exactly what I'm talking about. It goes like this He who has no stomach for this fight, let him depart.

J Jerry Leachman 32:50

And his passport shall be made and crowns for convoys shall be placed in his purse. He who would not die in that man's company that fears his his fellowship with us. This day, is called the Feast of crispy and and he that outlives this day and comes a safe home will stand a tip toe when this day is named. And rouse him at the name of CRISPR. he that shall live this day and see old age will yearly on the visual, feast his neighbors and say tomorrow is the feast of Christmas. Old man forget. Yet all shall be forgot. But he'll be remembered with advantages who fought with us this day? What feats he did that day. Then shall our names be familiar in his mouth as household words. Harry the king, Bedford Exeter, Warwick, Tallac, Salusbury and Glau Custer the in their flowing cups, freshly remembered this story shell the good man tell his son, and crisp and crispy and shall air go by from this day to the ending of the world. But we in it

J Jerry Leachman 34:21

shall be remembered. We few We Happy Few. We Band of Brothers. For he today that sheds his blood with me. Be he Nair so vile?

J Jerry Leachman 34:43

This day shall gentle his condition. And gentlemen, in England now a bed shall think them a cursed that they were not here and hold their man hoods cheap While anyone speaks, while anyone speaks that fought with us here in the feasts of crispy, and then I

J Jerry Leachman 35:08

want to be in the battle. I want to show up at heaven. I want to hear Jesus say to me, you were with the band of brothers that Kristen,

J Jerry Leachman 35:20

for me, you shall be remembered forever. This is your legacy. I don't know if you're confused, but this is your legacy. I'm gonna say a prayer over you now and give you a priestly blessing. And then Mike's going to come up and describe we're going to have a little break with some discussion, some small groups, and then we'll come back. Pete is going to take us across the finish line, we're out of here. This is a prayer of St. Patrick, who is actually a tremendous man of God, and missionary to Ireland. His life was constantly threatened and he was like the apostle Paul. And God use St. Patrick. I know they turned it into a drinking day. But this guy was like the apostle Paul, God use St. Patrick to lead almost the entire country of Ireland, to Christ in his day. This is a prayer that St. Patrick prayed, and I'd like to pray it over you. I arise today, through God's strength to pilot me. God's might to uphold me. God's wisdom to guide me, God's eye to look before me, God's ear to hear me God's word to speak for me. I arise today, through God's hand to guard me, through God's way to lie before me. For God's shield to protect me, for God's host, to save me. I arise today for God to keep me from the snares of the devil, from the temptations of vices, from everyone who desires me ill after and the near Christ summon today, all these powers, Christ between me and evil, Christ against every cruel, merciless power that opposes my body and soul, Christ against incarnations and false prophets, Christ against black laws, Christ against law, false laws and heretics, Christ's against craft and idolatry, Christ against spells of women and SMIS and wizards, Christ against every knowledge that corrupts Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me. Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lay down Christ when I sit down, Christ in the heart of every man who speaks of me, Christ in the mouth of every man who prays for me, Christ in the eye that sees me, Christ in the ear that sees me. I arise today through a mighty string, and the invocation of the Trinity Christ everywhere Amen.