

WHAT WE ARE FIGHTING FOR . . .

SET THE SCENE

Colonel Joshua Chamberlain of the Union's 20th Maine Regiment is assigned a regiment of 120 "deserters" who refuse to fight in the upcoming battle. When dealing with these men, Colonel Chamberlain shows them an extraordinary amount of respect as men. In this scene, they have been ordered to move out and are at the point of possibly losing the war. His speech to them explains how he is going to handle the situation they've put in him, but more than that, it explains everything about his character and his heart.



ROLL CLIP: GETTYSBURG (25:08 – 30:15)

DISCUSSION

1. *"Here's the situation . . . we could surely use you fellows. Whether you fight or not that's up to you."*
 - In the fights that men face, why is fighting or not fighting in the battle up to each of us? What is the impact and ramifications of "not fighting?" Share a story in your life about a time when you DID "fight," as well as the outcome.
2. Colonel Chamberlain mentioned that some men had joined up to fight because they thought it would be "fun," others because they felt "ashamed" not to join, while others joined because it was "the right thing to do."
 - Let's talk about these three areas (fun, shame, right-ness) as they relate to our walk with the Lord and the battles that we fight.
3. *"This is a different kind of army. We are here for something new . . . we are an army to set other men free."*
 - Colonel Chamberlain identified to these men (deserters) that there was a "Larger Story" going on than just fighting to win the upcoming battle; a more "noble cause." Discuss how they were going to set men free and how we can set men free in the battles we face today.
4. *"We all have value . . . what we're fighting for . . . in the end, we're fighting for each other."*
 - How did this statement make you feel? How do we fight for "each other" today?
5. What are some other things that you connected with or that impressed on your spirit in this scene? Share these with the group.