

# *A Kingdom Parable for Our Time*

An excerpt from: *A Call to Arms! Out of the Pews and Into the Streets*

By David May



Once there was a good king who was going on a journey to find a better land for his subjects. Before he left, he commissioned an army to fight against his one very powerful enemy. The king knew that if left alone the enemy would build his own kingdom and even his own army by stealing the hearts of the good king's subjects. The king declared that every subject of the kingdom was to serve in the army, and he gave instructions for how they should fight. The instructions were for an army on the offense, always moving aggressively against the enemy.

At first the king's people were loyal, and they made great progress opposing the enemy of the king. The enemy was in hiding. But after awhile the king's subjects grew weary of always fighting, so they began to build forts. Every village had a fort. Some villages even had several forts because some of the subjects did not want to share what they had built.

Gradually, in first one village then another and another, the king's army moved into the forts and waited for the enemy to attack them there. They continued to train each other in case the enemy tried to enter the fort, but they mostly quit the attacks and the rescues they had been conducting in the streets of their villages and the countryside beyond. They were too busy inside the forts. They were no longer much of a force at all in the kingdom.

Outside the forts the enemy gained more and more power. With the king's army hiding out, the enemy found very little opposition in the city. His forces grew stronger and stronger: in the government, in the marketplace and among the townspeople. Soon the king's army became fearful that the enemy was winning the war. And he was. The king's army began to wish that the king would come back and tell them what to do. But he had already told them.

Long ago.

Before he left.