

## SERGEANT YORK!

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1. The question of absolute obedience to authority has always been a problem. The Chain really overdid it, but there must still be some obedience, even if it's only to the Lord, me & the Letters!

2. God's Word teaches it! This is something which in the months that I spent in the Army, especially in the hospital, was one of the greatest problems in the military at that time, during WWII, with all these boys who didn't really want to kill, but who knew they were being trained to kill. And so many of them, scores of them, came to me for answers.

3. "Would you please help us? Will you please answer these questions? We're scared, we're worried, we want to know what to do!" And at first I hardly knew how to answer their questions. I said, "All I know is that

4. "It says, 'Thou shalt not kill.' But in the same code of laws for 27 different offenses it says 'Thou shalt kill'!"—Exodus 20-23. I tried to do something to encourage the poor guys, because some of them were about to fall apart over it.

5. So I'd tell them the story about the famous Sergeant

York of WWI. During the First World War they didn't have any allowance for Conscientious Objectors at all, & he was a C.O., refusing to kill people because of his convictions against it. He was a real Christian. He was a crack-shot with a rifle too, came from the Kentucky Mountains & loved to go hunting, so they wanted him in the Army. Finally they drafted him & sent him to France.

6. He was out in a trench one day & somehow or another the Germans had circled them & gotten around behind them, & there were several German machine gun nests. They had surrounded them & were just mowing down the American boys with the machine guns virtually by the hundreds!

7. He prayed about it & got the answer: "Sometimes you have to take life in order to save life". So he attacked the Germans & he came marching out of the fog with 600 German captives single-handed!

8. So I'd tell the guys the story of Sergeant York. I said, "You know, sometimes it's necessary to kill people to save lives; take lives to save lives." I said, "After all,

9. "The Bible says that's why the officer of the law carries a sword or gun: He doesn't carry it in vain—he intends to shoot somebody & maybe even kill them if necessary to stop them from committing crimes!" So I said, "Maybe that's what you're doing". Because some of them were really worried about it. I told them that sometimes in order to save lives, they might have to take lives.

10. And this is the job of the police, this is the job of the Army. They need the encouragement of the knowledge of this. So I began to give this to the boys. I said, "Well, whatever you think about right & wrong, whether it's right or wrong, the thing is that God's Word says:

11. "You are to obey the power, those that have rule over you." (See Romans 13) I said, "Whether they're right or wrong, it's right for you to obey; & if it's wrong, it's not your fault, it's not your responsibility, it's theirs!" See? It was your duty & your job to obey, whether it was right or wrong.

12. I want to tell you, the Army is really a human, physical example of what God expects, that your first instantaneous reac-