

Evening Lesson

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU RELOADED WITHOUT PULLING THE TRIGGER?

James 1:22

INTRO:

1. We need to use our potential, not waste it.
2. Illus: After the battle of Gettysburg, provost marshals collected 27,514 muskets which had been abandoned on the field during the fight. 24,000 were loaded, 12,000 had two charges each, 5,000 were charged with three to ten loads each, and one had 23 loads in it! Why so many guns with multiple loads? It seems that in the confusion and excitement of battle the soldiers would reload their weapons and forget to pull the trigger. What a waste! There were enough unfired weapons to equip a fair-sized army and most packed with more than one charge!
3. How does this apply to me?

I. THE LOADED CHRISTIAN.

- A. Think of the Christians who attends most of the services of the church.
 1. We are taught, encouraged, instructed, motivated, and reminded how to think, talk, act.
 2. We often tell the preacher how we enjoyed the lesson – how we reloaded our guns.
- B. The real test effectiveness of any lesson, song, or prayer is whether we are different after our participation.

II. A TEST TO SEE IF WE FIRED OUR GUNS AFTER RELOADING.

- A. Do I feel less guilty after praying for forgiveness? **Matt. 7:7, 8**
- B. How am I acting differently toward my family as a result of lessons on the home?
- C. What happens in my life after singing, "I want to be a worker for the Lord?" **John 4:35**
- D. What are the changes in my actions and attitudes toward people who are different after studying **James 2:1-13**?
- E. How am I more like Jesus now than ten years ago? **I Pet. 2:21**

CONC:

1. Surely our guns are loaded.
2. Even a person with the right aim in life will fail if he never pulls the trigger!