

I really like Jimmy Stewart as an actor – one of my favorite movies of all-time is “It’s a Wonderful Life”. He also has a great role in “The Glenn Miller Story”, where he plays the famous Big Band leader. Like the first movie I mentioned, there is a moment in the Glenn Miller story where I always get all choked up.

Glenn Miller had it made in the band business, but he chose to go overseas during World War II to entertain and inspire the troops. In the scene that so affects me, he is directing his band at an outdoor concert in England when the air raid siren sounds. He keeps directing the band, and they stay and play their music, even when the buzz-bombs begin to fall around them. The irony is that when the explosions get very close, the seasoned soldiers run for cover!

For me it is a magic moment, seeing him stand in the face of battle. I am touched for various reasons, which are all centered around certain parallels to Christ:

- 1) Glenn Miller was there to give hope and comfort to those facing battle – he was not a fighting soldier and did not have to be there. Similarly, Christ could have stayed in the presence of God and never come down to be with us.
- 2) He played inspiring music to encourage the soldiers to remain steadfast. Christ taught inspiring lessons about the meaning of Truth and Goodness.
- 3) He was a soldier, but not one with a gun. Christ was a common man without physical weapons, but it was still His job to fight evil.
- 4) He was not immune to the danger of the attack; indeed he ultimately lost his life in a plane crash during the war. Christ gave up that type of immunity and gave His life for us.
- 5) He stayed with His band while everyone around him, soldiers included, ran for cover. Christ also stayed to “face the music”. His disciples ran, but later regrouped under His leadership.
- 6) Many did not realize that what he was doing was important, but it was his mission. Christ carried on His mission as well; only now do we have a real glimpse of its importance.
- 7) The attack did not distract him from his duty – he carried on with his mission despite the risk. He remained steadfast in the thick of battle. Christ stood His ground as well, especially in the garden when He was arrested.

I don’t worship Glenn Miller, but a part of his life shows a Christ-like spirit. I do worship Christ, and God promises so much for those who remain steadfast¹ under the onslaught of evil.

1. Revelation 2, 3