

# THE LEGEND OF CLOSEFIST

In a time of war many years ago, men were preparing for battle. One of the warriors, a man named Closefist, sat in his tent, tending to his weapons. A fellow warrior came to Closefist and asked to borrow a sword since his had broken in a previous skirmish.

"I noticed that you have two swords, and I am in great need," said the warrior.

"I certainly cannot give you my second sword," said Closefist. "What if my first sword breaks in battle as yours did? I'll need a spare."

Another warrior stopped by Closefist's tent. "Could you lend me your extra shield? Mine was lost in yesterday's skirmish."

"No," Closefist replied instantly. "If my shield gets knocked out of my hands, I'll need a spare."

Closefist, in fact, had a spare for almost every weapon.

The next day, the battle commenced, and Closefist found himself and his fellow warrior captured by the enemy. Carrying all of his spare armor made it impossible for him to be light of foot; and on top of that, his comrade had no sword with which to fight and prevent capture.

*If only I had been less concerned about keeping all my armor and weapons for myself, Closefist lamented as he sat manacled in a makeshift jail. Perhaps there would've been a greater chance of escape for me and my comrade. This is a sorry lesson for me!*

## LOOK IT UP:

"One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty" (Proverbs 11:24 NIV).

