

Part 5: If You Love Me

[Maeve and Patrick sit on the Log and watch as Connel and Derdra spar expertly with their swords. The change from when they first were seen with the swords is amazing! Connel no longer runs, but matches Derdra's disciplined thrusts and parries with his own. After a few moments they stop and salute one another, then all freeze as the Narrator begins.]

Narrator: More than a month has passed since Alil Armagh, realizing that he was a sinner, and that only Jesus Christ could save him, placed his trust in Christ and became a true Christian. Soon the warm days of summer will give way to the cool of fall, and a very different Alil Armagh will be busy. But here he comes now, so I'll let him tell you himself...

Maeve: [To the Narrator] That's the most sensible thing I've heard you say!

[Alil ENTERS. He is wearing the sword and carrying a shield. He even has a hat on, and all-in-all appears more confident and strong, yet also more cheerful.]

Alil: Good morrow my fine young friends!

Maeve: [Curtseys] Good morrow to you, Sir Knight.

Patrick: Good morrow!

Connel : Cool shield!

Derdra: Can I see it?!?

Alil: All in good time, but first I have an announcement to make.

Patrick: Announcement?

Maeve: What kind of announcement?

Derdra: War!

Connel: Yes! War!

Alil: Slow down! [Motions to log] Sit over here and let me tell you what's going on.

[Alil sits on log and others range on either side, facing him without setting backs to the audience]

John 13:17 says: "Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

and in John 14:15 Jesus says: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." This has been bothering me for several weeks now. Remember how we talked about people who call themselves "knights" yet don't do the things that knights are supposed to do, or they do just the opposite?

Patrick: Yes. Like all the knights who are doing the evil things that the King asks them to do.

Alil: Exactly! But it's not just knights! There are some people who call themselves "Christian" but don't do the things God wants them to do, and even do the opposite.

Maeve: Sure, but what has that got to do with you?

Alil: Everything. You see, for ten years, since the King tried to kill me and he put that price on my head, I've stayed hidden in this Forest. What I should have been doing all along is defending the weak and fighting against evil. That's what a real knight would have done, so although I still sincerely believed that I was a knight, I was sincerely wrong, and I haven't been a real knight for ten years.

Connel: But you're just one man! How could you fight against the King and all his many knights?

Alil: A knight should never let fear or personal danger keep him from doing what is right. I have been thinking only of myself, and I've let everyone else down.

Derdra: But you've been forgiven! You trusted in Jesus, and He has saved you from ALL your sins. Even that one!

Alil: It's true, and I'm not telling you this because of guilt: Jesus paid the price for me and I am forgiven. What I'm trying to say is that being a Christian is no different: I can't just say I'm a Christian, that's meaningless! If I truly love Jesus, and I do, then I have to live like a Christian.

Maeve: What does that mean?

Alil: For me it means that I cannot let personal fear keep me from doing what is right. I cannot hide away in the Forest while helpless people are oppressed and murdered.

Connel: You're going to oppose the Evil King!

Alil: With the help of brave knights like Sir Benton, Sir Broad, Sir Cory and Sir John, Anders Son, and with **your** help..

Maeve: Ours?

Alil: Of Course! Without the four of you, this battle would not have been joined at all!

Patrick: We'll be killed, I just know it.

Alil: Have no fear! We're not going to face the King's army directly, at least at first. We need allies, and that means diplomats: people to go to our neighboring kingdoms who can persuade them to help us. Does that sound more up your alley, Maeve?

Maeve: I could talk a hen off her eggs!

Alil: Don't get cocky! [Maeve looks properly chastised, outwardly.]

Derdra: You'll be known the world over! More famous than Connacht!

Alil: [Frowns and speaks quietly but insistently.] No, dear Derdra, I won't, and neither will you.

Connel: But if we defeat the evil King...

Alil: Right now that's a very big if, but regardless of whether we defeat him or not, I truly hope that no one ever hears our names.

Maeve: But why?

Patrick: Because he doesn't want any of the glory for himself. He's doing this to serve the kingdom, and to serve God by defending the weak. He wants God to get all the glory.

Alil: Now there is true wisdom, Patrick.

Derdra: But if you're leading knights in battle, how can you keep your identity a secret?

Alil: Hopefully, with these... [He puts on cape and mask.] I won't be Alil Armagh at all.

Instead, call me... Ah...

Maeve: The Courageous Knight!

Patrick: Yes! He is made courageous by his faith!

Alil: Sounds good to me! Now, follow me, there are others we must discuss this with!

[Alil charges off to EXIT at rear, followed by a cheering Connel and Derdra. Maeve and Patrick hang back and watch them go.]

Maeve: Oh look, Patrick! There goes The Courageous Knight and his ragtag but joyous army!

Patrick: Yes, Derdra. You know they say he's made courageous by his faith in Christ.

Maeve: I've heard that. And he wants others to follow his example.

Patrick: Shall we?

Maeve: Why yes! [Both EXIT]

Narrator: We will leave The Forrest of Rathroghan now, but not before telling you that The Courageous Knight and his ragtag, but joyous army did indeed eventually meet and defeat the Evil King Evan Macha on the field of honor. Those who are wise will know that evil did not stop there, however, and The Courageous Knight had many further adventures. Eventually he retired from the knight business, and settled down, but his son took up the cause, following his father's example, and so did his son after him, and so on down through the years. One of he ancestors is still following the same path today. Can you guess who it is? Have you ever heard of...

Voice over PA: Courageous Man!

End—Theme Music