

## David's Mighty Men

[The Kind of brother you need]

### 2 Samuel 23: 8-17

<sup>8</sup> These *are* the names of the mighty men whom David had: Josheb-Basshebeth the Tachmonite, chief among the captains. He was called Adino the Eznite, because he had killed eight hundred men at one time.

<sup>9</sup> And after him *was* Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, *one* of the three mighty men with David when they defied the Philistines *who* were gathered there for battle, and the men of Israel had retreated.

<sup>10</sup> He arose and attacked the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand stuck to the sword. The Lord brought about a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to plunder.

<sup>11</sup> And after him *was* Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines had gathered together into a troop where there was a piece of ground full of lentils. So the people fled from the Philistines.

<sup>12</sup> But he stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the Lord brought about a great victory.

<sup>13</sup> Then three of the thirty chief men went down at harvest time and came to David at the cave of Adullam. And the troop of Philistines encamped in the Valley of Rephaim.

<sup>14</sup> David *was* then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines *was* then *in* Bethlehem.

<sup>15</sup> And David said with longing, “Oh, that someone would give me a drink of the water from the well of Bethlehem, which *is* by the gate!”

<sup>16</sup> So the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that *was* by the gate, and took it and brought *it* to David. Nevertheless he would not drink it, but poured it out to the Lord.

<sup>17</sup> And he said, “Far be it from me, O Lord, that I should do this! Is *this not* the blood of the men who went in *jeopardy of* their lives?” Therefore he would not drink it.

These things were done by the three mighty men.

## **Introduction:**

I have lived long enough now to understand how critical it is to be a loyal friend in the time of need. Loyalty in relationships is of paramount concern for the child of God.

It is paramount because, everybody needs somebody in their life on this journey. Having a

loyal friend is one of the gifts only God can give on earth's lonely highway.

Today's lesson will teach us all about what a real friend looks like and what a real friend will do on behalf of the one they love.

### **Background:**

David has been re-established as Israel's King, Absalom is dead, his rivals have gone back into submission, the drama has ceased in the kingdom, and now the author of this book turns to show us a picture of his government and who it is that he has surrounded himself with while he is serving on the throne.

It's a powerful look, because these are not ordinary men. These men are **soldiers, warriors, men of purpose and brotherhood.**

They are those who would lay down their lives for the king. They follow him, serve him,

minister to him and love him like they love their own lives.

These men are **fearless, faithful, and completely fulfilled** with being a soldier in the kings army.

The child of God can learn from this passage what a real relationship with the king looks like, and we can learn how we too ought to be **faithful, loyal, committed** in every way to the one we say that we love and serve.

The church today needs more christians whose loyalty to Christ is like the loyalty of Davids men. The lords church should show the same respect for Jesus as Davids men showed for him.

There are three points for discussion today:

1. The Warriors Profile.
2. The Warriors Passion.
3. The Warriors Purpose.

Let's learn today how to be good soldiers in the service of the king.

## I. The Warriors Profile

<sup>8</sup> These *are* the names of the mighty men whom David had: Josheb-Basshebeth the Tachmonite, chief among the captains. He was called *Adino the Eznite*, because he had killed eight hundred men at one time.

<sup>9</sup> And after him *was* Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, *one of the three* mighty men with David when they defied the Philistines *who* were gathered there for battle, and **the men** of Israel had **retreated**.

<sup>10</sup> He arose and attacked the Philistines until his hand was weary, and **his hand stuck to the sword**. The Lord brought about a great victory

that day; and the people returned after him only to plunder.

<sup>11</sup> And after him *was* **Shammah** the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines had gathered together into a troop where there was a piece of ground full of lentils. So the people fled from the Philistines.

<sup>12</sup> But he **stationed himself** in the middle of the field, **defended it**, and killed the Philistines. So **the Lord** brought about a great victory.

### Notice:

When we come to this portion of the text we discover that these **three warriors** present for us a profile of what type of men David surrounded himself with.

They were three men of **integrity, purpose, and commitment**. They were true soldiers

whose profiles tell us a lot about who they were, how they led, and what they believed about God and fighting on his behalf...these **were kingdom men, on a mission to serve their king.**

### **Lets meet these brothers:**

According to the text “**these Three**” fought so valiantly that they are singled out above the rest.

1. **Josheb**-Basshe-beth killed eight hundred men at one time, a warriors record only matched by Samson's slaying of a thousand Philistines (Judg. 15:15).

2. **Eleazar** is a warrior known for singlehandedly striking down the Philistines after the rest of the Israelites had retreated.

According to the text it was just like when Samson, was exhausted after the conflict, **but through him** “the Lord brought about a great victory that day” (v. 10).



3. The third hero is **Shammah**, the son of Agee! In one battle he refused to flee with the rest of the troops, Shammah stood his ground and successfully fought the enemy by himself.<sup>1</sup>

**All three of these** warriors have **courage in common**...

they have **fearlessness in common**...

they have **sacrifice in common** and they all have **honoring their king in common**...

They all lived in a hostile world filled with enemies and wars to be fought!

They lived as **aliens in a fallen world**, but they were willing to defend what they believed and stand alone when necessary...

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<sup>1</sup> Wolf, H. M. (1995). 1-2 Samuel. In *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible* (Vol. 3, p. 228). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

**They were stand up soldiers** willing to die for what they believed...

**They fought alone** when they had too.... And their courage saw them through....

And the last thing they had in common was that they had **the Lord on their side!**

The Lord gave them the victory... The Lord gave them the favor...

The Lord gave them their mentalities and used them in a manner that he has never used another man before...

That's why they are the first of David's mighty men...They make up the big three... after Joab...

These were his generals, they were named in the text for a reason...

- **They were men to remember.**

- **They were men to immolate.**
- **They were men to follow.**
- **They were men to identify with.**
- **They were men to think about.**
- **They were men to resemble.**
- **They were men who modeled the way.**
- **They were men who loved the king.**
- **They were men of sacrifice.**
- **They were men of principle.**
- **They were men ready to be men.**
- **They were men committed to brotherhood.**
- **They were men who could hold their own.**
- **They were men who weren't afraid to be men.**
- **They were men who took risk.**
- **They were men who fought their enemies.**
- **They were men who stood alone, thought alone, took the heat alone, and got the victory alone....**

### **Application:**

- **We can learn a lot from these men...**

- The kingdom of heaven needs men like this.
- The kingdom of heaven needs soldiers of the cross.
- The kingdom of heaven needs warriors for the cross.
- The kingdom of heaven needs believers who love the king.

We can earn today what real kingdom people look like....The profile of a believer ought to look like this.....

### **Story:**

John Wesley said, “Give me a hundred men who fear nothing but sin, and desire nothing but God, and I will shake the world.

I care not whether they be clergymen or laymen; for such men alone will overthrow the kingdom of Satan and build up the Kingdom of God on earth.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Tan, P. L. (1996). Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times (p. 282). Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc.

John Wesley had a desire to train mighty men like those of Davids...

He saw what a leader could do if they had the courage to be a soldier for Jesus Christ!

We saw what the Lord could do with John Wesley! What could he do with you...

- Could he use you to plant churches?
- Could he use you to make disciples?
- Could he use you to usher in revival?
- Could he use you to preach the gospel all over?
- Could he use you to defend the faith?
- He used Wesley, and he is still looking for men like that today!

We have looked at the **warriors profile**, let's look now at the **warriors passion**.

## II. The Warriors Passion

<sup>13</sup> Then three of the thirty chief men *went down* at harvest time and came to David at the cave of Adullam. And *the troop of Philistines* encamped in the **Valley of Rephaim**.

<sup>14</sup> David *was* then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines *was* then *in* **Bethlehem**.

<sup>15</sup> And David said with longing, “*Oh, that someone would give me a drink of the water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!*”

<sup>16</sup> So the three mighty men *broke through* the camp of the **Philistines**, *drew water from the well of* Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David. Nevertheless he would not drink it, but poured it out to the Lord.

## Notice:

When we arrive at this portion of the text we get to see the passion that these warriors had for their King. They were concerned for his needs, concerned for his desires, and concerned for his request.

They were so passionate about their king that they risk their own lives, their own safety and took a chance on being killed for the sake of the king.”They were living sacrifices”.

The text says that they overheard the king say in his distress “*Oh, that someone would give me a drink of the water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!*”

And because they were attentive to the king's heart and the king's request, they took it upon themselves to make this assignment their own and used what skills the Lord had allowed them to acquire to fulfill the king's request....

## **Here it is....**

These men signed themselves up for the secret mission...

They signed themselves up to go to the place, where there might not be any return...

They signed themselves up to do what no man had done before...

They signed themselves up for the danger that it would take to do what the king uttered from his mouth...

These men...according to the text did three incredible things....

1. They “broke through the camp of the Philistines!
2. They “drew water from the well of Bethlehem that *was* by the gate!”



3. Then they took it and brought *it* to David.

### **Observation:**

According to scholars... David was in the Cave of Adullam... it was approximately 12 miles from Bethlehem...

The enemy was down the hill in the Rephaim Valley from where David was being held up in the Strong-hold....

They had to go through the enemy lines twice...going and coming...to make the kings request a reality....

Secondly after going 12 miles they had to return 12 miles...facing the enemy backwards and forward, going and coming!

- This took commitment.
- This took courage.
- This took confidence.
- This took camaraderie.

- This took creativity.
- This took community.
- This took concern and care.
- This took calling and conviction.

**This took every thing they had to complete this mission!**

They laid it all on the line for their King!

They were volunteers for the mission to go behind the enemies line to retrieve “water” from the sacred place!

**This water was no ordinary water...**

- This was water from the sacred well in Bethlehem...
- This was no ordinary water...this was water from the place of memories for their king....
- This was no ordinary water...this was water that the king thought of in his distress...

- This was no ordinary water...this was water from the place of meaning...
- This was water he didn't have access too....
- This was water, that was not in reach...This was water, he was denied access too....
- **This was water that the enemy didn't want him to have....**
- This was water that was out of reach and sacred to the King...
- This was water that even the ordinary man was denied privilege too because an enemy forbade any one to have some...

These men knew the importance of what this drink meant to the king....

**Here it is...**

- A drink at this time in his life meant that God was with him...
- A drink at this time in his life meant that the Lord could still satisfy his needs...
- A drink at this time in his life, meant that he had victory over the enemy...
- A drink at this time, meant that he could do all things through God who strengthen him...

This drink would encourage a wounded man....This drink was no ordinary drink...

- This drink would put David back on the map...
- This drink would get his taste for battle back in his mouth...
- This drink would enable him to be refreshed...

- This drink would cause him to think deeply about those who were with him and who were supporting him....

**This water was sacred water**...this trip was a sacred trip...These men were no ordinary men, and this mission was a death mission, but worthy to be taken on behalf of their king...

### **Application:**

What the church needs today is a few men like this...

Men who would “passionately” lay down their lives for the king....

Believers who would “passionately” say, I know that living for God is dangerous, but I want to bring to him what he desires....

We need a few men who would “passionately” say, **whatever my lord has need of** I will go

behind enemy lines to retrieve the thing that brings him joy!

We need men today that will “passionately” say my only mission in life is to be in service to the king...

And whatever he request I will make it my passion to fulfill his request...

### **If it means loosing my life...**

If it means making a sacred trip, a blood trip, a life threatening journey....

If it means going into the place of harm to bring him what he desires...then I will go.

### **Story:**

G. Campbell Morgan told the story of that great English actor Macready.

He said one day a preacher asked the actor  
"What is the reason for the difference between  
you and me?

You are appearing before crowds night after  
night with fiction, and the crowds come  
wherever you go.

I am preaching the **essential and unchangeable  
truth**, and I am not getting any crowd at all."

Macready's answer was this: "This is quite  
simple. I can tell you the difference between us.

**I present my fiction as though it were truth;  
you present your truth as though it were  
fiction."**

**Here it is...**

The difference between these two men **was  
passion!**

I would argue today that the difference between most christians is the same thing...

Some are **passionate** soldiers and some are **passion-less** soldiers....which one are you?

David's soldiers made the archives of scripture because they were passionate warriors....

The Lord needs us to be passionate about our King, and do things for him that would take risk, or a call for us to be a living sacrifice ....

We have looked at the **warriors profile**, and the **warriors passion**, let's look now at the **warriors purpose**.

### III. The Warriors Purpose

<sup>16</sup> So the **three mighty men** *broke through* **the camp** of the **Philistines**, drew water from **the well** of **Bethlehem** that *was* **by the gate**, and **took it** and **brought it** to **David**. Nevertheless



he *would not* drink it, but *poured it out to the Lord*.

<sup>17</sup> And he said, “Far be it from me, O Lord, that **I should do this!** Is *this not* the blood of the men who went in jeopardy of their lives?” Therefore he would not drink it.

These things were done by the three mighty men.

### Notice:

The text here clearly provides for us the purpose for which these men did this service for their king...

It illuminates to me what made them so driven to fulfill this request and or desire to drink from the well...

I said it earlier but let me spend time on it again now.....

The King had a desire ...

The king had a vision...  
The king had a need...  
The king had a request...

No matter how difficult the request...they saw an opportunity to serve him and they took advantage of the moment...

They saw an opportunity to minister to the king and did not need for him to order them to do it, because they were already inclined to do it!

These warriors had but one thing on their minds...**that was service to the king.**

That was why they existed ...that was why they were in service...that was why they were in the cave of Adullam...

They believed in David...  
They were called to walk with David  
They were in his service, and in his service is where they wanted to be....

**The text says, that they brought the water from 12 miles away...**

They brought the water, after laying their lives on the line...

They brought the water after their near death experience, to honor the desire of the king....

**But! David couldn't drink it and He wouldn't drink it!**

He wouldn't do so because it was water that He considered to be **"blood-water"**

It was water that was retrieved with the lives of men...

David told the Lord in prayer how he couldn't drink it, because somebody had laid their life on the line to save his....

David recognized the kind of men that were around him...

**They were “real men”...Men who would lay down their lives for **their king!****

David instead poured out the water as a sacrifice unto God for being so good to him....

Instead of David quenching his own thirst, satisfying his own flesh, making himself feel good and look good...

**He gave God the glory, he gave God the praised, he acknowledge the Lord as the one who is deserving of the sacrifice of these men....**

David knew he wasn't worthy of they're offering...but the Lord was ....So he gave to God what the men had given to him...

David gave honor where honor was due...  
David gave praise where the praise should've  
gone...

David gave tribute to where it should have  
gone....

**He poured the drink offering out to the  
Lord...**

**Here it is...**

Mighty warriors recognize mighty warriors...

Mighty warriors give tribute where tribute is  
due...

Mighty warriors always give God what  
belongs to God!

Mighty warriors never try to take the Lords  
glory or the lords praise...

David models for us who deserves sacrificial offering and who doesn't!

David models for us to **appreciate friendships and brotherhood**, but never take them for granted or for personal gain...

He is a true leader, a warrior worth serving, a man whose heart is after God's on heart...

David is a type of Christ who would come to earth and teach us how to live for God, behind enemy lines...

**I got to leave you now....**

**Jesus** would become our teacher, who would show us the more excellent way

He would teach us how to battle on earth in the spirit...

He would teach us...how to serve one another...

He would teach us, how to live sacrificially...

He would teach us, how to lay down our lives for the sake of the father, that we may bring him honor and glory in all that we say and do.

The bible says.....

**This same Jesus**....Was found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

He died...didn't he die? He taught us to die sacrificially that we may live...

He was **buried and raised again back to life**...

“<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Php 2:5–11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.