

Mighty Men of God
2 Samuel 23:8-17
Life of David Series
(David: After God's Own Heart)

Today we are jumping ahead in our study of the Life of David to Chapter 23

A)Over the next couple of weeks we will cover the chapters that fit in between 11-22

B)But I want to look at part of this chapter today because it fits very well –

1)with where we are at in the life of our Church

C)This chapter is about David's Mighty Men

Scholars really don't know where this chapter fits in the Narrative

A)In this ch. is David looking back and reflecting on some of the men that God raised up to serve with him

B)It is an incredible list of 37 names – notice the last name on that list – V.39 Uriah the Hittite

C)Whom we will see next week that David actually has killed to cover up his sin of Adultery

1)Bathsheba Uriah's wife

D)But for our Purpose today I want us to focus on Six of these men - Pick it up in V.8

⁸ These *are* the names of the mighty men whom David had: Josheb-Basshebeth the Tachmonite, {Mouthful chief among the captains. Special dude He was called Adino the Eznite, Thank God – from here on out we will refer to him as Adino the teenage Ninja Turtle – Adino

Now He is listed as one of the mighty men – chief among the captains because he had killed eight hundred men at one time. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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. ¹² But he stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory.

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ David *was* then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines *was* then *in* Bethlehem. Taken control of Bethlehem ¹⁵ 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!”

David is just thinking out loud – what would I give....well in Beth

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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. Pray!

Have you ever heard any of these statements?

A)God is looking for a few good men? Marines

B)God doesn't call the equipped – He equips the called?

C)God isn't looking for ability but for availability

Those are all true statements!

A)But Great men and women of God are not born they are made by God.

B)David's mighty men are a great example of this

C)We are first introduced to this group of men back in 1 Samuel 22 – David was fleeing from Saul

Listen to the description the Bible gives of these men

A)It will be on the Screen 1 Samuel 22

David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father's house heard *it*, they went down there to him.

² And everyone *who was* in distress, everyone *who was* in debt, and everyone *who was* discontented

gathered to him. So he became captain over them.
And there were about four hundred men with him. 1
Samuel 22:1-2

Notice the chief characteristics the Bible tells us about
this group at their introduction

A)3 Words are used to describe them –
In Distress – In Debt – Discontent

B)There was nothing great or mighty about them at all

C)Stressed out – Bankrupt – they are a burden – no
one is writing checks to fund anything

1)They are a weight and Liability to David

D)And they are discontent – Men with a Critical Spirit
- Awesome group to lead right?

But however many years later – we read of them
Killing 800 Philistines alone – other Heroics

A)What in the World happened ?

**B)Well I suggest to you – these men became great
men by hanging out with David**

C)Interesting – Saul never killed a Giant – none of his
men did either.

But the first time we see David in Battle what is he
doing – Takes down Goliath

A)And several of his men became Giant killers so to
speak as well.

B)See Who David was – rubbed off on them – had an
affect on them

C)Here is the Application for us- Jesus; who is greater
than David - is the Ultimate Giant Killer –

D)As we hang out with him – get close to him – we
can learn to walk in HIS Victory as well.

So we have these 6 men mentioned here in the text we
read today.

A)Three we know by name – 3 we just know what
they did

**B)I want to suggest to us today – These 6 men
illustrate four important traits**

1)That will be a part of any person who desires to be a
mighty man or woman of God. NO AGE LIMIT

So the First guy we are introduced to is Adino

A)Who killed 800 philistines in one battle

B)In the Parallel passage to this in 1 Chron 11 – it
says - he had lifted up his spear against three hundred,
killed *by him* at one time. 1 Chronicles 11:11

Lifting up the spear in Scripture is symbolic of prayer
1 Timothy 2:8 I desire therefore that the men pray
everywhere, lifting up holy hands.

We read of Moses Lifting up his hands in prayer –
battle with Amalekites – Aaron / Hur

²Let my prayer be set before You *as* incense, The
lifting up of my hands *as* the evening sacrifice.
Psalm 141:2

**1st Point a mighty man or woman of God is going
to be a person of Prayer – Prayer warrior**

A)Be a person Given to prayer – Priority of prayer

B)Prayer is the #1 mark of our dependence upon God
– we want to rely upon him.

C)Talking to Jesus throughout the day

1)What ever situation you find yourself in seeking his
guidance

D)Being steadfast in Prayer – not growing weary in it

If you are interested in growing in your prayer life –
pick up any book on prayer by EM Bounds

"No man can do a great and enduring work for God
who is not a man of prayer, and no man can be a man
of prayer who does not give much time to praying."
EM Bounds

“Prayer is not the foe to work, it does not paralyze
activity. It works mightily; prayer itself is the
greatest work.” EM Bounds

“The [prayer] closet...is the battlefield of the
Church; its citadel; the scene of heroic and unearthly
conflicts.” EM Bounds

E)A Mighty man or woman of God will be a person
who is strong in prayer

Continue V.9-10

9 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.10 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.

Next up is Eleazor – Battled all day until his hand stuck to the Sword – Became a part of him

A)The Sword is symbolic of God's Word

B)The Bible is called the Sword of the Spirit in Eph 6

¹² For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

#2 A mighty man or woman of God will be a person given to the Word of God.

A)You want to be a Mighty man or woman of God you must be in the Word consistently

B)Like Eleazar's Hand Stuck to the word - it became a part of him

C)Your mind and heart is stuck to the Word – it literally becomes a part of who you are

1)Your life, priorities, pursuits, goals, attitudes and perspectives are being shaped by the Word

D)Jesus described the wise builder -as the person who hears his word and puts it into practice

E)Eleazar is a great picture of the person who is giving themselves continually to studying the word of God –

1)His hand stuck to the sword –

3rd man: Shammah –

11 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.12 But he stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory.

Here we see in Shammah trait #3: Faithfulness in service

A)When everyone else bailed because of the Philistines – Shammah remained faithful

B)He stationed himself in the middle of this field of beans and defended it!

C)He is risking his life for a field of beans? – Really?

D)Steakhouse maybe – or a bunch of Carne Asada Burritos – maybe – Field of beans

A mighty man or woman of God is going to be one who is faithful in service

A)That is all that God is looking for in any one of us – be faithful to our assignment

Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful - 1 Corinthians 4:2

B)Faithful with what God has put into our hands

1)Think about what God has put into your hands

C)Relationships – Resources – Responsibilities Opportunities

D)Me: Heaven: Husband to Denise- Faithful ? Did I steward that relationship well ?

E)Note: Not did I do it perfectly – Denise – NOPE

As a Father to my 3 kids – Faithful ?

A)Did I steward those relationships well

B)As the Pastor here – Faithful to this assignment?

C)Next month – I will begin my 30th year as the Lead pastor of this Church –

1)Was I faithful to the call and responsibility God has put into my hand ?

D)The Answer to those questions for each of us are going to be the result of our rewards in heaven

Are we being faithful to what God has put into our hands

A)Did we steward our finances well – investing in the Kingdom of Heaven?

B)More than the Kingdoms on earth?

C) We are to be faithful stewards

Now a Cool principle in scripture is when you are faithful in the little things –

A) Rewarded with more responsibility

'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. - Matthew 25:21

B) So Shammah- who fought for a field of beans

C) It's a great picture of faithful service!!!

D) He gets in the list of One of David's mighty men

E) Adino – pic of Prayer and Eleazar of being a Man of the Word. / Shammah – Faithful in Service

1) 3 traits that will be evident in the life of the person who becomes a mighty man or woman of God

Then we have the story in V.13-17 of that time when David was in the cave of Adullam

A) He is just thinking out loud – Man what would I give for a drink of water from the well in Bethlehem

B) Home town – He knew that well – something special about that spring water

C) Well 3 of David's men hear him – and they look at one another – lets go –

1) Lets go and get some water for our King

Suddenly they are gone.

¹⁶ 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.

A) Notice it doesn't tell us how they broke through – just that they broke through

B) Why is that? I think it is because of our tendency to love to make formulas – books – how break...

C) But Every breakthrough story is different –

D) But I think all of them include being a person of prayer / WORD

1) And being faithful in service

E) So these guys breakthrough the camp of the enemy to bring water to their King

But here is the thing that I want us to glean from these three guys who broke through

A) 4th trait of a mighty man or woman of God – is that they learn to hear the heartbeat of their King

B) These guys hear the heartbeat of David – hear him just speaking out loud Do for a drink....

C) They were moved to action! – Lets go!!!!

I suggest to you that a person who is going to be a mighty man or woman of God is going to be

A) Someone who hears the heartbeat of King Jesus and is moved to action

B) They will be someone who is sensitive to the Voice of the Holy Spirit –

1) quick to hear and quick to respond

C) Listen - You want to be used mightily by God – when God tells you to do something –

D) Holy Spirit is speaking to your heart – DO IT !!! RESPOND

E) The more you learn to do that – the more you will be used by the Lord –

David is blown away here – and does something at first glance seems odd –

A) But in reality is beautiful – Pours it out to the Lord – Offering –

B) What He was saying to these men, this water means more to me than something good to drink,

1) This water represents love loyalty, sacrifice and faith.

C) And The best thing to do with those kinds of things is to offer them back to the Lord.

So this is what we learn from this story today

A) Mighty men and women of God will be – People who are given to Prayer / The Word

B) Who are faithful in Service –

1) Who are learning to hear the heartbeat of King Jesus – Amen?