

Subject: David's Mighty Men

Scripture: 2 Samuel 23:8-23

It is thrilling to read about war heroes. Two themes dominate this chapter: leaders and warriors. In this chapter we find David's last words describing godly leaders and a list of David's brave men and some of their courageous deeds. We are going to focus our thoughts on these men who were called "mighty men" (vs. 8). They were men of great courage and ability. They were heroes in the full sense of the word. They were David's elite men in the army, possibly his own personal body guards. They were known for their acts of heroism and bravery. This list is found again in 1 Chronicles 11. Like the stories of great patriots, these men inspire and challenge us to be courageous and take our stand for the Lord. As we think about their deeds we ought to remember that God is worthy of all the glory.

- **Psalms 33:16-22** ¹⁶ *There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength.* ¹⁷ *An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength.* ¹⁸ *Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;* ¹⁹ *To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.* ²⁰ *Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield.* ²¹ *For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.* ²² *Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.*

1. Adino fought against great odds (vs. 8)

He killed 800 men at one time. He was victorious against incredible odds. If God be for us, who or how many can be against us? One with God is a majority. The truth is that every soldier of the cross is outnumbered, not only by unsaved people, but by the devil and his demons. These are our real enemies. Lost people are not our enemies; they are victims of the enemy. ***Ephesians 6:12*** *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

2. Eleazar was determined to win (vs. 9-10)

He was so persistent that his hand stuck to his weapon. One translation says his hand froze to the sword. His hand was welded to it. We would be sure of victory if we would hold on to our weapon, the sword of the Spirit. ***Ephesians 6:17*** *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.* It's good to have God's Word in your home; it's even better to have God's Word in your hand; but best of all is to have God's Word in your heart.

3. Shammah took a firm stand to defend his ground (vs. 11-12)

He was willing to stand and defend something he considered important. What was so valuable? It was just a pea patch. Someone said, "If you can't do great things, do small things in a great way." That's some good advice for all Christians. Have you decided what you are willing to stand for? ***Jude 1:3*** *Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*

4. Three mighty men risked their lives to get water (vs. 15-17)

This was no ordinary water. David longed for a drink from the well of Bethlehem, his birthplace. These men were so close to David that his wish was their command. They were more than willing to undertake a very dangerous mission to get the water. They had

to go behind enemy lines and invade the Philistine army, but they were willing to risk it. They would do anything for their king. When they brought the water to David, he wouldn't drink it, but poured it out as an offering to the Lord. He loved and respected these men so much that he couldn't drink the water that cost them so much. He wasn't rejecting their gift. He was showing that their level of commitment, risking their own lives, was a sacrifice worthy of God. He was honoring their sacrifice in the greatest possible way. Are you willing to risk anything for your King? David accomplished many things with his hands. He held a shepherd's staff, played a harp, held a soldier's sword and spear, a sling and some stones. But the greatest thing he ever did with his hands was when he took this water and poured it out as an offering to the Lord because in doing so he revealed his heart and soul. I pray that we would not take the sacrifice of others for granted, but that we would always honor the veterans who risked their lives for our country. And there is another group we should always remember and honor, all those Christians who laid down their lives for the Lord and the sake of the Gospel.

5. Abishai was willing to fight alone (vs. 18)

He evidently killed these 300 men by himself and had quite a reputation as a warrior. Abishai was Joab's brother, and he had an aggressive and violent personality that served him well. It's always a blessing to have others who are willing to stand with you, but the time eventually comes that you must stand alone. We can learn from Paul, who was able to say this, *2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.* In the final judgment you will have to give account for yourself. *Romans 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

6. Benaiah was a man of great courage (vs. 20-23)

He was not easily intimidated. Several stories about him were well known. You could say he was a legend in his own time. He killed two lion-like men of Moab, killed a lion in a pit, and killed a goodly man (*a spectacular man, NKJV; an impressive man, NASB; Hebrew, a man of appearance*). David set him over his bodyguards (vs. 23). You can understand why. *Proverbs 28:1 The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.* The word "bold" doesn't mean aggressive, but confident and secure. *2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

On this day when we pay respect to those who bravely fought for our country and after looking at those brave souls who fought in King David's army, may the Lord help each one of us to be just as committed to serve our Lord Jesus Christ.