

David's Mighty Words, Mighty Men, and Mighty End

Text: 2 Samuel 23, 1 Kings 2:1-10

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Series: Life of David

Tabernacle Baptist Church

7020 Barrington Road

Hanover Park, Illinois 60133

Website: www.GodCentered.info

Introduction: Open your Bible to **2 Samuel 23**. Tonight we are going to talk about the pillars in all of our lives, and in David's life. We are coming to the end of David's life. His last words are recorded, and a history of an early battle of David's mighty men are also appropriately recorded.

What we have here are Mighty Words, Mighty Men, a Mighty Savior, and a Mighty End. These were pillars in David's life, and they are four pillars of the Christian life.

Now 2 Samuel 23, we know was not written only for David and for Israel, but for you and me in the Christian church. Paul says this over and over again in the New Testament.

Romans 15:4, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

1 Corinthians 10:11, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."

So when we come to here tonight is for us!

[Prayer]

What we have here are four Pillars: the Mighty Word, Mighty Men, a Mighty Savior, and a Mighty End.

I. The first pillar in the Christian life must be the Mighty **Word** of God. It is God's Word that transformed David, and it is God's Word that will transform and strengthen us.

How is that? Look at what David writes in **verse 1**.

A. When reading and receiving the Bible, we also receive the **Author** of God's Word.

1. Obviously I am not talking about the **Human** Author. In **verse 1**, we read: "Now these be the last words of David". The idea, is that this is the last divinely inspired psalm of David. These are not the last words David spoke on earth, but the last words David wrote by divine inspiration. God used human instruments to write the Word of God. He used their personalities. Peter says in **2 Peter 1:21**, "..the prophecy [of Scripture] came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." This is what David himself is saying in **verses 2 and 3**.
2. It is the **Divine** Author of Scripture that transforms us! David says in **verse 2**, "The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue". **Verse 3**,

"The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me". Paul says the Word of God is "God-breathed", which means it is authoritative (**2 Timothy 3:16**).

We ought to read the Bible because it's Author is present when we read it, and He will transform us. He is able to break the heart of stone.

- B. When reading and receiving the Bible, we also receive the **Authority** of God's Word. If God speaks to us, then we are bound to live our lives according to it. The authority is obvious when a person reads it because God Himself applies the Word to our hearts. **Hebrews 4:12**, "For the word of God is quick [ALIVE], and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." God's Word is ALIVE and powerful because the Author of the Word is always present when the Word is read.
- C. When reading and receiving the Bible, we also receive the **Power** of God's Word. It has an effect on every one it touches. God says, in **Isaiah 55:11**, "my word...shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."
1. If the Word is received in faith, it produces a spiritual blessing: **holiness**.
 2. If it is received in unbelief, it produces a curse, the **hardening** of the heart. **2 Corinthians 2:14**, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. 15 For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: 16 To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things? 17 For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ."
- D. Indeed, our submission to the Word of God is the **Barometer** of whether or not we are even Christians. John tells us in **1 John 3:24** that a person who is truly born again conforms every part of his life to the Word of God, "And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us."

Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (**John 14:15**).

Application: So many profess to be Christians, but are not submitted to His Word. What happens to those people on Judgment Day? We don't have to wonder. In **Matthew 7:21-23**, Jesus answers this question, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

- II. The second pillar of your life must be the Mighty **Men** or people of God. Here we read of David's mighty men. There were three mighty men: (1) **Adino** the Eznite, also known as Josheb, (2) **Dodo** the Ahohite, and (3) **Eleazar** the son of Dodo .
- A. God's people ought to desire an extraordinary **commitment** to God. You ought to be faithful even if there are only a few true warriors for the Lord.

1. **Adino** the Eznite – Adino slew 800 men, **verse 8**, "he lift up his spear against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time".
2. **Eleazar** the son of Dodo – **verse 10a**, "He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword". Look what the result was—**verse 10b**, "the LORD wrought a great victory that day"
3. **Shammah** the son of Agee the Hararite. **Verses 11-12**, "the people fled from the Philistines. 12 But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the LORD wrought a great victory".

These men were faithful, loyal, courageous, and persevering men. They were willing to stand alone. They put themselves forward in vulnerable situations and risked their lives! These men were willing to go alone and fight even if they were the last one standing.

David's friends were just like him. Remember when little David was outsized by Goliath, yet David overtook the giant!

Application (COMMITMENT, LOCAL CHURCH): Are you one who is willing to pay the price for Christ? Are you just a *casual* Christian, or are you a **committed** Christian? Notice something about these men.

- (1) Though they were all fighting on different battle fronts, it was the same war. They didn't go out in the middle of nowhere and start fighting for Israel. They were at a certain place at a certain time, fighting against a common enemy. We need to be bound together in a local church in the same way!
- (2) They were all on the same TEAM! We ought to strive for that same unity in our local church. We ought to realize that our fight for holiness is this church's fight for holiness. That our desire to support another believer, and defend him or her and not gossip is really supporting the whole church. God has supernaturally put us on a team together.

Look at it in the NT, God addresses his letters not to individuals, nor to the church universal, but to individual churches. "To the church at Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, etc." Look at the seven churches of Revelation.

1 Corinthians 1:2 is especially helpful because it puts the local church and the universal church into perspective. "Unto the **church of God which is at Corinth**, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be saints*, **with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord**, both theirs and ours".

So we need to have an extraordinary commitment to God.

- B. God's people ought to desire an extraordinary **commitment** to each other. We read of how the Philistines had occupied Bethlehem and we read of David's great desire for something to drink from the well in Bethlehem. **Verses 15**, "And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!" David was trapped with his men in the cave of Adullam where there was no natural water supply. David's men trekked 25 miles to Bethlehem and back to bring David water.

We see an amazing love and loyalty for David, **verse 16a**, "And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David"...

Verse 16b, "...nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD. 17 And he said, Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men."

Explanation: David's pouring out the water seems like an insult, but it was truly the highest complement. This was a sacrifice of repentance and of faith for David. He was repenting that he risked these men's lives, and he was demonstrating his faith that he would win the battle.

Application: Do you love the brethren? **John 13:35**, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another".

Application (MENTORING): The rest of the chapter goes on to tell of other levels of soldiers and generals, but these were the ones who were setting the example. These men are mentioned in this chapter because they are examples to the rest of the men. There is a mentoring going on in armies at all times. There is a rising in the ranks. A general doesn't start out a general.

There is also a mentoring that goes on in the local church. We are all to always be in the mentoring process. What did Jesus say in **Matthew 28:19-20**, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (ESV).

This tells us something—the people that God uses are always TEACHABLE. When you cease being teachable, you have entered into pride, and God will set you aside. "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (**1 Peter 5:5**).

Are you being mentored? Are you mentoring? This begins with witnessing to the lost. Look at the great commission. **Matthew 28:19-20**, "Go ye therefore, and teach [i.e. **evangelization**] all nations, baptizing [i.e. **church membership**] them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you [i.e. **mentoring, counseling, or discipleship**]: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen".

- III. Another pillar of your life must be the Mighty **Savior**, Jesus Christ, and really this is the first and most important pillar.

Remember Eleazar and Shammah? **Eleazar** the son of Dodo – **verse 10a**, "He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword". Look what the result was—**verse 10b**, "the LORD wrought a great victory that day". We read in **verses 11-12**, "the people fled from the Philistines. 12 But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the LORD wrought a great victory".

Psalm 127:1, "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh *but* in vain."

David had said long ago when he fought against Goliath, "the battle is the Lord's" (**1 Samuel 17:47**)!

Remember David's words?! **1 Samuel 17:26**, "who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

1 Samuel 17:36, "Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God".

Application: It is not our great knowledge of the Scriptures that make us strong in the Lord, but our application of it to our lives. We must not read the Word simply as a text book, but as a living breathing book with a living, risen Savior!!

IV. We come to the final pillar of your life, and that is really your death: A Mighty **End**.

1 Kings 2:1-2, "Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying, 2 I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man 3 And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself: 4 That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel."

David went out mentoring and challenging others to serve God!

Verse 10, "So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David."

That's the way I want to die! That's the way I want to go. He doesn't use any excuses. He doesn't say that he failed his family. No he had repented, and he got right back up and kept going.

It doesn't matter how you start, but how you end.

Conclusion: Are you living for life, or are you preparing for your death? Who will serve God as a result of your life?

Are you faithful to God's Word, the Bible? Are you faithful to God's people, the Church? Are you faithful to God's Son, Jesus Christ? Are you going to be faithful to the end? I pray that you will!

This is the end of our study in the life of David. May you be like David, a man after God's own heart.