

THE LOYALTY OF DAVID'S MIGHTY MEN

The Loyalty of the Mighty Men

(2 Sam. 23:13-17; 1 Chron. 11:15-19)

- A. The event recorded in this passage likely took place when the Philistines sought after David just after he had been made King (2 Sam. 5:17ff).
- B. While David was waiting in the stronghold of the cave of Adullam, three men came to join with him.
 1. The parallel account states: "These things did these three mightiest" (1 Chron. 11:19).
 2. Thus, some think that it refers to the first triad of David's mighty men – Adino, Eleazar, and Shammah.
 3. However, most commentators believe that this story serves as an introduction to the second triad – Abishai, Benaiah, and an unnamed warrior.
 4. The lesson of the passage is the same, no matter which three men are under consideration.
- C. One day, David spoke out loud his wish for water from the well at Bethlehem.
 1. Of course, Bethlehem was David's hometown and he had grown up drinking from that well.
 2. At this time, David had been hiding out in caves and in the wilderness for years.
 3. Furthermore, the need to draw water from wells indicates that it was during the dry season.
 4. The Philistine army had encamped in the valley of Rephaim and had control over many roadways and towns, including Bethlehem.
 5. David was not giving an order to his soldiers, merely wishing for a cool drink of good water.
- D. Hearing David's wish, these three men decided to grant it – in spite of the risk.
 1. They had to sneak through the lines of the Philistine army.
 2. They had to journey to Bethlehem (perhaps 15 – 20 miles) and draw water from the well.
 3. Then, they had to return to David's camp.
 4. The text seems to indicate that there was some fighting involved.
- E. This is a powerful picture of true loyalty and friendship.
 1. **Freedom** – they were not forced or coerced to act (vs. 13).
 2. **Devotion** – they would stand with David wherever (vs. 14).
 3. **Honesty** – David was unashamed to express his needs (vs. 15).
 4. **Sacrifice** – they acted with boldness and courage for David (vs. 16).
 5. **Respect** – David loved and honored them for their deeds (vs. 17).
 6. We should remember that Jesus is our friend (John 15:13-15).
- F. Upon receiving their gift, David was moved and refused to drink the water.
 1. This was not a sign of disrespect or heartlessness.
 2. Instead, it indicated the humility of the new King of Israel – he did not see himself worthy of the risk these men had taken for his simple wish.
 3. Furthermore, because it had been bought with blood, David viewed their gift as holy.

1 Samuel 22; 2 Samuel 23; 1 Chronicles 11 – 12

- G. Instead, he honored them greatly by offering their gift as a sacrifice to God.
1. What a powerful lesson David taught!
 2. They had risked their lives to serve and honor their King.
 3. Yet, David demonstrated that He was a servant of God – and, by serving him they would be serving Jehovah.
 4. It was more important to David that God was honored as the true King of Israel!
- H. David's mighty men teach us that we must act in order to serve God.
1. Adino – Do **bold** things!
 2. Eleazar – Do **exhausting** things!
 3. Shammah – Do **right** things!
 4. Abishai – Do **humble** things!
 5. Benaiah – Do **difficult** things!
 6. Mighty Men – Do **extravagant** things!
- I. Without being asked, these men went above and beyond to serve their King – demonstrating their love and devotion for him.
- J. When was the last time we did the same for God?
1. Mark 12:41-44– She gave her entire living (cf. 10:21)
 2. Mark 14:3-9 – She gave an extravagant gift.
 3. Phil. 3:4-8 – He gave his life.
- K. What sacrifice have I made to give extravagantly to the Lord?

A Summation

(2 Samuel 23:1, 39)

- A. The study of David's mighty men teaches about the devotion, courage, and sacrifice that is needed to serve Jehovah.
- B. Verses 24-39 list the rest of David's mighty men (with others mentioned in 1 Chronicles 11:26-47).
1. Even if one was not a part of the elite six, they were still on the list!
 2. David knew his mighty men.
 3. The Lord knows those who are His (2 Tim. 2:9).
- C. Note, with sadness, the last name on this list – Uriah the Hittite.
- D. Consider that this record of David's mighty men and their deeds is given as a part of "the last words of David."
1. Before he died, King David wanted the nation to know the men who had been loyal to him for so many years.
 2. Their fellowship, friendship, and devoted service had made them as close as family.
- E. "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 10:32).
- F. Are you one of the Lord's mighty men?