

14—Three Mighty Men’s View of David: Worth Great Sacrifice

2 Samuel 23:13-17

Most powerful individuals do not become successful and powerful all by themselves. A husband may be aided



“Then three of the thirty chief men went down at harvest time and came to David at the cave of Adullam.”

2 Samuel 23:13 (NKJV)



in his earthly success by a wonderful, helpful, and supportive wife (see Proverbs 31:10-11, 28). A business-owner may have a hard-working staff, a wise accountant, and great advisers. The President may be privileged to have a wonderful campaign manager, and a well-chosen Cabinet. An army general may be assisted by loyal and efficient captains and lieutenants. Of course, even great coaches need some talented players to help their winning percentage. The most successful churches are not enduringly successful because of one prominent member but because of all the members working together (Ephesians 4:12-16).

As I think back through my years as a preacher I could tell many stories of people who were

“mighty” helpers in my life. Without the instruction of a mother, father, and grandparents who loved the Lord it would have been difficult to even begin preaching. We have been fed so many times by so many brethren’s hospitality that the cost of those meals is probably in the tens of thousands of dollars. Sometimes those meals came at a time when our bank account was nearly in the negative. At other times, my greatest help has been the encouragement of a timely card, or e-mail, or text. There have been moments I have had to take hard stands from the Scriptures which were not popular among all the hearers. Those who unashamedly stood with me were a great support in those moments. There have been shut-ins who rarely see me who have told me they pray for me daily which have provided divine help in ways I probably will never fully realize. I could go on and on about how so many of God’s people have made impacts in my life.

King David was no different. He knew he was dependent upon the aid of others. He knew, without others, his success as a king would have been far more limited. Because of this, the Scriptures have two full chapters devoted to the mighty men of King David. In 2 Samuel 23 we find a list of thirty-seven mighty men. In 1 Chronicles 11 we come across a list of forty-eight mighty men. This is not a complete listing of every person who ever helped David. Yet, it is a divine roster which reminds us mighty leaders are dependent upon the help of mighty men to be catapulted to success.

Who are the people who have been the influencers and helpers in your life? Are you quick to give them credit? Can you list specific ways in which they have helped you through difficult moments? This inspired text shows us the value of remembering and being thankful for those types of people. If even King David took the time to be thankful to those who made great sacrifices in his service should we not also do the same? Let’s think for a few moments about these three unnamed mighty men noted in 2 Samuel 23:13 and learn a few lessons from them.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who were some of David’s original followers (1 Samuel 22:2, 13)? How do you think the backgrounds of these men helped contribute to their loyalty for David?

2. Describe the situation found in 2 Samuel 23:13-15. Who is battling against David and his men? Where is he? Where are the Philistines? What is David's wish expressed in v. 15 and what makes this a difficult request?

3. Even so, what do these three mighty men do for David (2 Samuel 23:16)? Was this an easy task? What do you think these men looked like when they returned? What would compel these men to make such a sacrifice for King David?

4. What does David do with the water once he realizes the great risk these men took to secure it (23:16-17)? What was said, in prophecy, about Jesus in Psalm 22:14? What kind of sacrifices did He make so become, like water, for us? What does Paul say his life was like and how did he feel about it (Philippians 2:17; 2 Timothy 4:6)?

5. Take a moment to look backwards. What key event in the life of David may have first motivated these men to have confidence in David and, consequently, in defeating this guard of Philistines themselves (1 Samuel 17:51-53; 18:5)? What effect can our good works have upon one another?

Key Lessons:

- Just a cup of cold water lets your brethren know you love them (Matthew 25:33-40).
- The measure of love is known by its willingness to sacrifice.
- God's mighty men showed their love for King David by making sacrifices to serve him in his kingdom. God's servants today will, likewise, make willing sacrifices to serve King Jesus in small ways.

Additional Notes: _____
