

What It Takes to Defeat the World

You can be like the mighty men of David

Second Samuel 23.8–39

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Scripture Reader and Reading: Orië Peugh – First Samuel 22.1–2

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Nash Crisp – Onward Christian Soldiers and similar songs

Prelude:

I. When you fight the Lord's battles,

- A. you will do amazing things.
- B. Remember Samson and the numbers of the enemy that he killed,
 - 1. one thousand with a donkey jawbone at one time, and
 - 2. more than that on the day of his death.

II. So now see the mighty men of David, and

- A. see why they were mighty.
- B. I believe
 - 1. that in the same way they were mighty in the flesh,
 - 2. we can be mighty in the Spirit.
- C. When they fought the Lord's battles,
 - 1. they did incredible things.
 - 2. Like watching a movie where the hero does unimaginable things.

III. I know that none of us can remember everything

- A. that I will show you, but
- B. I will end with a passage that I think will summarize it all.

Persuasion:

I. Second Samuel 23.8–23 – Deeds of David's Mighty Men

A. 23.8 • Courage

- 1. What are the odds of 800 to 1
- 2. when you have the Lord on your side?

- a) Focus on the Lord and
- b) you will have unconquerable courage.

B. 23.9–10 • Endurance

1. This guy's spirit was not affected by others running away, but
2. he knew that the Lord was with him.
 - a) Therefore, like his leader David,
 - b) he did not fear, but
 - (1) attacked the enemy,
 - (2) although he had to do it alone.
3. Was it easy?
 - a) No, because his hand grew weary!
 - b) Has your hand and arm grown weary
 - (1) while swinging a hammer, or
 - (2) using a screwdriver?
4. However, he would not let go of his sword,
 - a) knowing that victory would eventually come, because
 - b) he knew that the Lord was with him.

C. 23.11–12 • Defend Your Ground

1. He had a job to do, and
2. he did it,
 - a) even when others
 - b) would not do their job.
3. He knew that he stood on property
 - a) that the Lord had given to Israel, and so
 - b) he would do his part to defend it,
 - (1) even if he had to do it alone, for

(2) he knew that he was not alone.

(a) He knew that the Lord would bring out a victory.

(b) Therefore, he defended his ground until the Lord gave it.

D. 23.13–17 • Loyalty to Your Leader

1. Whenever I read this passage or think of it,

2. I think of our water at our house.

a) I love our water.

b) Whenever we go away,

(1) I often think like David here,

(2) wishing that I could have a drink of water from our well.

3. However, look at these men here!

a) They so loved David,

b) they were so loyal to him,

(1) that if he wanted something,

(2) they would get it for him,

(a) even if it meant

(b) risking their lives.

4. To see how Israel viewed David,

a) look back at Second Samuel 21.15–17.

b) Yet, consider what he said in one of his psalms: 2 Samuel 22.29–30.

E. 23.18–19 • Know How to Use Your Weapon

1. Like the others, the odds against this guy did not matter to him.

2. He had a weapon that could endure the battle, and

a) he obviously knew how to use it.

b) And he knew how to use it

(1) after training and endless practice.

- (2) What good is a weapon,
 - (a) if you do not know how to use it and
 - (b) if you never practice with it?

F. 23.20–23 • Fight Against the Odds

1. Other translations have different ways of describing this Egyptian:
 - a) He was handsome (ESV)
 - b) He was huge (NIV)
 - c) He was impressive (NASV)
2. First Chronicles 11.23 provides further information
 - a) on what the writer meant
 - b) that the Egyptian was a spectacular man:
 - (1) It says that he was 5 cubits tall,
 - (2) which is a minimum of 7.5 feet tall.
3. Benaiah was so impressive
 - a) that when David died and Solomon became king,
 - b) he made Benaiah the head of the army.
4. This man knew how to fight the Lord's battles:
 - a) He had done many deeds.
 - b) He killed two warriors of Moab who were like lions.
 - c) And speaking of lions...
5. Look at how he defeated the Egyptian.

II. Second Samuel 23.24–39 – Other Mighty Men

- A. We read all these names,
1. questioning whether we have pronounced them correctly, but
 2. we know the pronunciation of that man in verse 39.
 - a) The writer set us up

- b) to learn the caliber of man
 - (1) whom David had killed purposely in battle.
 - (2) Uriah left his home of the Hittites,
 - (a) joined the Israelites, and
 - (b) distinguished himself as a mighty man of David and of God.
- B. This makes David's betrayal of Uriah even worse.
 - 1. How would Uriah have fared,
 - 2. if he had remained with his people the Hittites?
 - a) Did Uriah make it to heaven?
 - b) I am going to assume that he did, because of
 - c) his honorable behavior
 - (1) when David tried to get Uriah to sleep with his wife Bathsheba
 - (2) that David might cover his sin with Bathsheba.
 - (a) That one episode did not make him worthy of heaven, but
 - (b) Uriah did not become honorable that night, especially when drunk.
 - i) Living in honor had been his way of life.
 - ii) He was attracted to Israel and
 - (1) became a worshiper of the one true and living God.
 - (2) That simply extended his honor way of living.
- C. What was the meeting in heaven like
 - 1. for David and Uriah?
 - 2. for Uriah and Bathsheba?
 - a) Not only did God forgive David, but
 - b) Uriah would have forgiven his wife and David.

Exhortation:

I. Be mighty like the men of David:

- A. Live courageously,
- B. Live with endurance,
- C. Defend your ground,
- D. Show loyalty to your leader,
- E. Know how to use your weapon,
- F. Fight against the odds, and
- G. Forgive.
 - 1. All of them faced a world that out-numbered them.
 - 2. They did not run away like others, but
 - a) remained with the Lord, and
 - b) the Lord remained with them.

II. You can forgive

- A. when you receive the Lord's forgiveness
- B. for your sins against him.

III. Christians Are Like the Gadites • First Chronicles 12.8

8 Some Gadites joined David at the stronghold in the wilderness, mighty men of valor, men trained for battle, who could handle shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as gazelles on the mountains...

– 1 Chronicles 12.8

IV. Do You Have a Depressing D? • First Samuel 22.1–2

1 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.