

## **FAITH MADE CHOICES...CONTINUED**

*Faith made choices in the lives of David's Mighty Men*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Pastor Mike has just finished a series on Hebrews 11 called Faith Made Choices in which he highlighted a number of Old Testament examples of faithful men and women who served God faithfully. We sometimes call this list of example is Hebrews "The Roll Call of Faith" or "Heroes of Faith"

King David had a similar list of men who had served him faithfully throughout the course of his life. And although these are not men who are mentioned in Hebrews 11, I thought it would be good to spend some time examining their lives of faithful service to David because in many ways and on many levels David's life is a reflection of Jesus Christ and so David's mighty men can serve as examples to us of how we should serve Christ.

**2 Samuel 23:1-7** *"Now these are the last words of David..."The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue. The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me: When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God, he dawns on them like the morning light, like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning, like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth. "For does not my house stand so with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. For will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire?"*

### **THE NEED FOR MIGHTY MEN**

*But worthless men are all like thorns that are thrown away, for they cannot be taken with the hand; but the man who touches them arms himself with iron and the shaft of a spear, and they are utterly consumed with fire."*

- David turns his attention to "worthless men" in all likelihood referring to the Philistines.
  - The Philistines were the arch enemies of the Israelites dating back to the time of Isaac.
  - When God promised the Promised Land to the Israelites the Philistines who were on the farthest reaches of the Promised Land were among those whom God required Israel to remove from the Land.
  - The Philistines were among the last of Israel's enemies to be removed from the Promised Land.
- David fought the Philistines his entire life (5 stones picked up from the stream).
- David realized that the Philistines could only be removed by force.

### **THE GATHERING OF DAVID'S MIGHTY MEN**

- David, the shepherd boy, is anointed by Samuel in the presence of his brothers.
- David rises to fame after killing Goliath
- David becomes the mightiest of mighty men
- Saul becomes jealous of David and plots to kill him
- David flees from Saul to become a fugitive

**1 Samuel 22:1-2** *"David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam..."*

- David cries out to the LORD, struggling deeply with what God is doing in his life and vacillates widely between full and confident trust in God and complete and utter despair

**Psalms 142** *"With my voice I cry out to the LORD...I tell my trouble before him. When my spirit faints within me, you know my way! In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me. Look to the*

right and see: there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; **no one cares for my soul...Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name! The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.**"

- The LORD answers David's prayer

**1 Samuel 22:1-2 continued...and when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. And everyone who was *in distress*, and everyone who was *in debt*, and everyone who was *bitter in soul*, gathered to him. And he became captain over them. And there were with him about four hundred men."**

- David's mighty men were among the 400

## **NOTES:**

### **1. Hardship, loss, and discontent have a way of removing the barriers to faithfully living in God's promises.**

- [Slow down here...describe these troubled men and their predicament and the magnitude of the transaction that took place when they decided align themselves with David at Adullam.]
- The only apparent reason that these men aligned themselves with David was their hardship...all other avenues were closed off to them.

### **2. Faith in God's promises makes you willing to sacrifice present comfort for future reward.**

- The choice to align themselves with David was a choice to become a fugitive with David
- Hiding in caves
- Constantly moving
- In continual search for food and water
- Raising a Modern Day Knight...*Rejects passivity, accepts responsibility, leads courageously, Seeks the Greater Reward.*
- **WELL DONE**

**2 Samuel 23:8-12** "These are the names of the mighty men whom David had: **Josheb**-basshebeth a Tahchemonite; he was chief of the three. He wielded his spear against eight hundred whom he killed at one time.

And next to him among the three mighty men was **Eleazar** the son of Dodo, son of Ahohi. He was with David when they defied the Philistines who were gathered there for battle, and the men of Israel withdrew. He rose and struck down the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clung to the sword. And the LORD brought about a great victory that day, and the men returned after him only to strip the slain.

And next to him was **Shammah**, the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines gathered together at Lehi, where there was a plot of ground full of lentils, and the men fled from the Philistines. But he took his stand in the midst of the plot and defended it and struck down the Philistines, and the LORD worked a great victory."

- This list of Mighty Men goes on...37 in all (close to 10%), all of whom were honoured by David for their courage in Battle.
- Josheb, Eleazar and Shammah stood out above all the rest...

### **3. Faith in God's promises liberates God's people to serve sacrificially.**

**2 Samuel 23:13-17** "And three of the thirty chief men went down and came about harvest time to David at the cave of Adullam, when a band of Philistines was encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then at Bethlehem. And David said longingly, "Oh, that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem that is by the gate!" Then the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate and carried and brought it to David. But he would not drink of it. He poured it out to the LORD and said, "Far be it from me, O LORD, that I should do this. Shall I drink the blood of the men who went at the risk of their lives?" Therefore he would not drink it. These things the three mighty men did."

- Reckless risk taking or faithful God honouring service?

### **ACTIONS:**

#### **a. Identify the Captains in your life and commit yourself to serve sacrificially.**

**Act 17:24-25** "The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, **nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything**, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything."

- We serve Christ by serving those he sends to us

**Mat 10:40-42** "Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

- The example of Stonewall Jackson

#### **b. Thank the LORD for your troubles and ask Him to lead you into faithful living.**

**1Thessalonian 5:16-18** "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

#### **c. Place your faith in the Promises of God by aligning yourself with the true King.**

**Psalm 110:1** "A Psalm of David. The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."

**Philippians 1:29-30** "For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have."

**Romans 8:16-19** "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God."