

BIBLE BRIEFING

“Pour Boys”

Second Samuel 23:13-17

2 Samuel 23:13 Then three of the thirty chief men went down at harvest time and came to David at the cave of Adullam. And the troop of Philistines encamped in the Valley of Rephaim.

2 Samuel 23:14 David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then *in* Bethlehem.

2 Samuel 23:15 And David said with longing, “Oh, that someone would give me a drink of the water from the well of Bethlehem, which *is* by the gate!”

2 Samuel 23:16 So the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought *it* to David. Nevertheless he would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD.

2 Samuel 23:17 And he said, “Far be it from me, O LORD, that I should do this! Is *this not* the blood of the men who went in *jeopardy of* their lives?” Therefore he would not drink it. These things were done by the three mighty men.

Introduction

Look at verse eight. It begins, these are the names of the mighty men whom David had...

The accounts of these men that follow are fantastic – the stuff of legends:

1. The very first guy was called Adino the Eznite, because he had killed eight hundred men at one time. (The number may actually be three hundred). He did it in hand-to-hand combat. It is awe-inspiring.
2. Shammah stood his ground while others fled and God brought him a great victory (v11-12).
3. Abishai killed three hundred men at one time (v18).
4. Benaiah killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. He also killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day (v20). He also killed an Egyptian, a spectacular man (v21).

To give you an idea of the magnitude of the exploits of these guys, Benaiah, even as profound as were his feats, [did not attain to the first three](#) of David's mighty men!

There is a spiritual connection to establish. David had his mighty men who achieved mighty victories. Our 'David' is the Lord, Jesus Christ. Believe it or not; like it or not; agree with it or not; **we** are His mighty men and women. We, too, can and should achieve mighty victories. We do it as we are filled with the Holy Spirit to say "No!" to sin and "Yes!" to obedience.

Here is another angle to approach this from. I want to be one of Jesus' mighty men. I know you do, too. Is there something about David's mighty men that can instruct us?

I'm sure there are many things; but there is one, in this chapter, in particular. It seems so out of place among these other exploits that it must be really important. It is the strange story of the three mighty men who got David water that he then poured-out upon the ground.

They teach us about our Lord's longings; and they teach us about our own pourings.

#1 Our Lord's Longings

[2 Samuel 23:13](#) Then three of the thirty chief men went down at harvest time and came to David at the cave of Adullam. And the troop of Philistines encamped in the Valley of Rephaim.

A moment ago I mentioned that there were three mighty men whose feat was considered greater than all the others. Greater than killing eight hundred men at once; greater than killing three hundred men at once; greater than standing alone against the enemy. It is these three men and this is their exploit.

The [cave of Adullam](#) was where distressed, depressed men who were in debt had first come to David as he fled from King Saul. They would become his mighty men.

Your history; your ancestry; your heritage; has nothing to do with becoming a mighty man or woman of Jesus. You come to Him, just as you are, and He transforms you. You are born-again; you are filled with God the Holy Spirit; you are a new creation in Jesus Christ. Old things pass away; all things become new.

At some point along the timeline of David's exile, they were again based in the cave of Adullam. The Philistines always came out and attacked Israel during the harvest. They were land-pirates. They were raiders – committed to excellence. They were fierce, with superior weaponry.

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2 Samuel 23:15 And David said with longing, "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of the water from the well of Bethlehem, which *is* by the gate!"

Philistines were in the local fields; and they had a stronghold at **Bethlehem**. The way blocked, and the city guarded, David yearned for something that seemed impossible: **A drink of the water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate.**

Was there something especially tasty about this water? Probably only that it was from David's home. His desire to drink from it was really his desire that Israel be at peace, with her enemies defeated. It was his desire that his exile be over; that he be enthroned as king; so that he could defend Israel against the Philistines and all her enemies to the glory of God.

Waiting is one of the hardest things God asks us to do. Or is it? If you are in fellowship with the Lord, waiting is full with His presence. Waiting can be more valuable than getting where you think you want to be.

2 Samuel 23:16 So the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought *it* to David. [Stop there...]

The three mighty men. The ones who rose above all the others as a result of this event; of this exploit. They fought through the camp of Philistines in their way; whether they met with resistance at

Bethlehem or not isn't recorded, but I'd say they did – since water sources would be guarded.

Notice two things that did not happen:

1. David did not command them to go and get him the water.
2. David did not coerce them to go and get the water.

As Christians, we should respond to Jesus' commands. We read them on the pages of Scripture, in both the Old Testament and the New. Since we love Him, we keep His commands.

The Lord will not coerce us. Coercion is not something that love does. We should not coerce others into doing things – even good things, even godly things. It reduces the love of God to a rigid legalism.

If it wasn't a command; and since they weren't coerced; what sent them? These three men somehow learned of the longing of their leader and sought to fulfill it out of love for him.

Do you ever think in terms of Jesus, or God the Father, having longings? You do if you remember they love you and are romancing you.

Is it Scriptural to speak of their longings of love? **Sure!**

1. Jesus expressed longings on several occasions. He longed for the rich young ruler to sell all his possessions and follow Him. He longed for the Jews in Jerusalem to receive Him, but they would not.
2. The apostle Peter expressed what I'd categorize a longing when he wrote that God is not willing any should perish, but all come to repentance.

The apostles expressed their longings for the believers they taught and encouraged. That they would grow into maturity; that they would be encouraged; that they would finish well. These desires all stem from knowing that these and similar things are the longings of God.

While reading God's Word to discover His mind, we must also learn of His longings. We often use the phrase, 'the heart of God.' It's a different way of describing His longing. Knowing God's heart, as well as His mind, will be a greater motivator to obeying His commands than knowing His mind only.

Look for the romance; listen for the longing; of God behind what He is saying to you in His Word and by His Spirit. It is a characteristic of a mighty man or woman of God who will achieve victories.

#2 Our Own Pourings

David was unaware of the mission of these three mighty men. They returned, with the water he had longed for. I'm sure they were anxious to see him take a long draught; to witness the satisfaction it brought to his heart.

Instead, he refused to drink it, and instead poured it out!

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Before we get all spiritual... How would you react? How **do** you react when you serve someone in the Lord but it seems as though they pour-out your counsel... Or advice... Or work?

We like to see results. We like the results to be positive. So often, sadly, the results we see in ministering to others are far from positive. Ministering to others is inherently discouraging.

What are we being taught about being mighty for the Lord? David didn't just pour out the water; **he poured it out to the Lord**. He took it from his men and made it a drink offering to the Lord.

The drink offering accompanied the meal offering in the Jewish sacrificial system. It was, very simply, poured out on the ground as a symbol of total devotion to the Lord.

Paul writes in Philippians 2:17, "Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all." Paul considered his life as an offering to the Philippians for the benefit of their faith in God and His purpose. Because of this, he was not able to live life as he might otherwise have chosen. He was always at their service; he sacrificed his life on their behalf.

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By pouring out the water as a drink offering, David was giving it to the Lord. Now, isn't it greater to do it for the Lord than for David? **Of course it is.**

When you minister, it ought to be because you have learned of the longings of your Lord. He longs for people to be refreshed; He longs for people to be taught; He longs for people to be healed; He longs for people to be saved. I could go on-and-on.

What the Lord longs for is not always the result we see as we minister! Our ministry, then, becomes like water poured out before Him. It fails to refresh or restore or revive the one it was directed at; but, because it was done as unto the Lord, He receives it as a precious offering.

There could be no burn-out; no discouragement; in ministry if we truly understood this principle.

In addition, our ministry toward others can be received, but misunderstood by others. Mary offered her perfume to anoint Jesus' feet. Judas reacted carnally, asking why this could not have been sold and given to the poor.

Conclusion

When we serve, expectations are usually high, but realization sometimes falls short, causing pain even in attempting to do good.

We must always remember that it is a sacrifice to be a drink offering.
The possibility of pain is always present.

