

“Pour Boys”

Second Samuel 23:13-17

Super heroes are all the rage, in print as well as on TV and in the movies. We seem to love super-human exploits.

They weren't super-human, but David, in the Old Testament, had an incredible band of brothers.

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.

2Sa 23:8 These are the names of the mighty men whom David had: Josheb-Basshebeth the Tachmonite, chief among the captains. He was called Adino the Eznite, because he had killed eight hundred men at one time.

He did it in hand-to-hand combat. How long does that take???

2Sa 23:9 And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David when they defied the Philistines who were gathered there for battle, and the men of Israel had retreated.

2Sa 23:10 He arose and attacked the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand stuck to the sword. The LORD brought about a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to plunder.

His hand cramped and would not let go of his sword.

2Sa 23:11 And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines had gathered together into a troop where there was a piece of ground full of lentils. So the people fled from the Philistines.

2Sa 23:12 But he stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory.

Shammah stood his ground while others fled and God brought him a great victory.

These guys are going to be called "the three" in subsequent verses.

2Sa 23:18 Now Abishai the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruah, was chief of **another** three. He lifted his spear against three hundred men, killed them, and won a name among these three.

Abishai killed three hundred men at one time. He was "chief" in another group of three mighty men. Only one of them is listed here:

2Sa 23:20 Benaiah was the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man from Kabzeel, who had done many deeds. He had killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. He also had gone down and killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day.

2Sa 23:21 And he killed an Egyptian, a spectacular man. The Egyptian had a spear in his hand; so he went down to him with a staff, wrested the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear.

2Sa 23:22 These things Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and won a name among three mighty men.

Benaiah killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. He also killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day. He also killed an Egyptian, a spectacular man.

2Sa 23:23 He was more honored than the thirty, but he did not attain to the first three. And David appointed him over his guard.

The first three achieved a greater notoriety because of what we skipped, in verses thirteen through seventeen.

2Sa 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.

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

2Sa 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!"

2Sa 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...

Way to go, guys! But wait; read on.

2Sa 23:16 ...Nevertheless he would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD.

2Sa 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.

These guys put their lives on the line. They gave it everything, just to bring David his favorite water. Then he poured it out.

What are we to make of it?

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.

With this in view, let's revisit the longing of David for water, and the pouring out of the water to the Lord.

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.

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. They were fierce, with superior weaponry.

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!"

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.

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, is waiting. His longsuffering waits, not willing that any should perish, but that all would come to eternal life.

He waits to sit with us, at His Second Coming, to partake of the fruit of the vine, at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb to His bride.

Waiting is one of the hardest things God asks us to do. His timing is always perfect, although we think He is late.

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.

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 were 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 longings.

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.

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.

He refused to drink it, and instead poured it out.

2 Samuel 23:16 Nevertheless he would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD.

Before we get all spiritual with the application... 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 your resources... Or your 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.

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.

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.

When we serve, expectations are usually high, but the reality 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.

It is so important; it is critical, in fact; that you do everything as unto the Lord, and not to men, seeking a result other than being pleasing to God.

I am not responsible for the free will decisions of those I minister to. I am only responsible for serving the Lord.

When I find myself drawing back from serving, it's almost always because I didn't get the results I was hoping for.

How did Jesus finish up? At the end of His earthly ministry, in His first coming, the crowd that had hailed and *Hallelujahed* Him, turned against Him; violently. They yelled out, "Crucify Him!"

One of His closest men, Judas, betrayed Him, for a very small sum of money.

The guy who many want to say was the leader of His disciples, Peter, three times denied he even knew the Lord - and he did it after Jesus warned him he would.

Ten of His guys fled; only John was at the Cross.

As he hung on the Cross, Jesus was, according to Psalm 22:14, being "poured out like water." He was a drink offering to His Father.

That is all we should expect in our serving the Lord.

