

- I. **Please turn with me to *2 Samuel 23:8a*, which reads, “These are the names of the mighty men whom David had...”**
 - a. In 2 Samuel 23 and 1 Chronicles 11, we find recorded for us a list of men who are commonly referred to as “David’s Mighty Men”
 - i. These men were mighty, elite warriors who followed and fought alongside King David throughout his life...
 - ii. They were men of renown and fame who had won a great name amongst the people for their courage and bravery
 - iii. They stood beside David through thick and thin, good times and bad times, and helped him establish his Kingdom throughout all of Israel
 - iv. Countless victories were brought to Israel by the hands of these “Mighty Men” – they greatly *impacted* the Kingdom of David...
 - b. Yet, one thing that is interesting about these “Mighty Men” is that they didn’t always have such a great reputation and status amongst the people
 - i. In **1 Samuel 22:2a**, we read a description of these men before they began to follow David, “*And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to David. So he became captain over them...*”
 - ii. Before following David, the Bible tells us that these mighty warriors were men in distress, men in debt, and men in discontentment
 - iii. They were the outcast of society, the black sheep of the country, those who did not meet the standards or expectations of the public
 - iv. Yet, it was in their distress, bankruptcy, and discontentment that they began to follow David, and as they began to follow David, their lives began to change drastically and radically for the good
 - v. They went from being the “outcasts of society” to the “heroes of the land” – the acclaimed “*David’s Mighty Men*”
 - c. Now, these “Mighty Men” serve as a wonderful picture or type of all those who would become followers of the Son of David – Jesus Christ
 - i. You see, like these men, before we came to Christ, we were all in distress, in debt, and in discontentment (*1 Samuel 22:2 describes us*)
 - ii. We were in *distress* – filled with misery, pain, worry, and depression...
 - iii. We were in *debt* – in debt to God, spiritually bankrupt, incapable of paying off the wages of our sin
 - iv. We were in *discontentment* – finding no satisfaction, no fulfillment, or no joy in the things of the world (*a continues void*)
 - d. This was our condition before we came to Christ, yet like David’s mighty men, this was also what drove us to the Son of David, Jesus Christ

- i. And like David’s mighty men, as we committed our lives to following the Son of David, Jesus Christ, our lives began to drastically and radically change for the good
- ii. We went from being the outcast of society, people with no value, purpose, or meaning, to becoming children of God...
- iii. We became a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own special people, an elite group within the Kingdom of God
- iv. ***What made all the difference?*** Simply, Jesus Christ – He did what nobody else was able to do...
- v. He transformed our heart and brought us into a new life, ***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new”*** – 2 Corinthians 5:17
- vi. I often tell myself one of the greatest miracles Jesus performs is the miracle of a changed life – ***“He can transform anybody?”***
- e. Therefore, in 2 Samuel 23, we read of “David’s Mighty Men” – men of renown and fame who greatly impacted and influenced the Kingdom of David
 - i. Now, as I began to read the accounts of these men, I began to say to myself, ***“How I want to impact the Kingdom of King Jesus like these men impacted the Kingdom of King David”***
 - ii. How I want to be a mighty Christian! How I want to be a brave soldier of the cross! How I want to be a faithful servant of Jesus Christ!
 - iii. Influencing, impacting, and expanding the Kingdom of God for the glory of Jesus Christ
 - iv. Basically, I want to be an effective, influential Christian...
- f. Sadly, the church is filled with mediocre, ineffective, average Christians
 - i. Christians who have no desire to influence, impact, or expand the Kingdom of God – they are simply content with their salvation...
 - ii. Yet, I don’t believe that God has called us to be ***average*** Christians, but I believe that God has called us to be ***mighty*** Christians
 - iii. Like David’s Mighty Men, Christians who will be remembered as expanding, defending, influencing, and impacting the Kingdom of God
- g. Therefore, for the next few weeks, I want to share a study which I have entitled “Mighty Christians” taken from 2 Samuel Chapter 23
 - i. I believe that we can learn from “David’s Mighty Men” many characteristics and qualities which make up a mighty Christian
 - ii. Listen, greatness in the Kingdom of God has nothing to do with our physical strength, physical stature, or physical ability
 - iii. However, greatness in the Kingdom of God has everything to do with spiritual virtues and godly characteristics found within our lives
 - iv. God is not concerned with how we look, but He is concerned with who we are and what we do...

- h. Therefore, this morning, we are going to begin our study and look at “three characteristics” which make up a mighty Christian
 - i. This we will do by examining the first two warriors mentioned in 2 Samuel Chapter 23:8-10 – Let’s begin...

II. Characteristic #1 – “Dependency”

- a. In 2 Samuel 23:8, we read “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”
 - i. The first characteristic of a mighty Christian is **dependency** – complete dependency upon God...
 - ii. In **verse 8**, we read about Josheb-Basshebeth the Tachmonite who killed eight hundred men at one time
 - iii. In spite of the innumerable odds against him, this “mighty man” was able to bring a great victory throughout the land
 - iv. Josheb killed 800 of Israel’s enemies at one time by himself – **“How was this possible? How did he do it?”**
 - v. I personally believe that he was able to do such a mighty act because he was completely dependent upon God and not himself...
 - vi. Josheb understood that it was only through the power of God that such a mighty victory can come through his hands
 - vii. Therefore, he simply depended and trusted in God, and by the power of God, he defeated 800 men at one time...
- b. And this morning I ask the question, “Who do you depend upon? Who or what do you put your trust in? Yourself or God?”
 - i. Listen, if you want to be an effective, mighty Christian, you need to learn to completely depend and trust in God – not anything or anyone else...
 - ii. **Psalm 118:8-9** declares, **“It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes.”**
 - iii. **Psalm 84:12** declares, **“O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You!”**
 - iv. In everything, we must depend and trust in God, we must never make the mistake and put our trust in someone or something else
- c. One of the greatest mistakes Christians make is thinking they have no need for God after salvation/conversion
 - i. They say to the Lord, **“Thank you for saving me Lord, but I’ll take it from here”** – this is a very dangerous attitude to have...
 - ii. The more dependent you are upon God, the more mightier, influential, and effective you will be in your Christian walk
 - iii. Depend upon God for everything – for salvation, for sanctification, for provision, for direction, for assistance, for anything and everything...

- iv. Be like Josheb, who in spite of innumerable odds, defeated 800 enemies at one time because He depended upon God – *“What odds are you facing this morning?”*
- v. Every morning, as I leave my apartment, I walk by a window which has a sticker with the words, *“In Jesus I trust”* written upon it...
- vi. What a good reminder that sticker is – *“Adam, today, trust in Jesus”* – and this morning, I remind you and encourage you, *“trust in Jesus”*
- d. Therefore, the first characteristic of a mighty Christian is “Dependency” – a complete dependency upon God

III. Characteristic #2 – “Commitment”

- a. In 2 Samuel 23:9, we read “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”
 - i. The second characteristic of a mighty Christian is commitment – complete commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ
 - ii. In **verse 9**, we are introduced to Eleazar the son of Dodo, who stood with David in battle against the Philistines
 - iii. Even though the men of Israel were retreating and abandoning David, Eleazar stayed committed and stood alongside of David
 - iv. He had an unwavering, unswerving, unshakable commitment to his King – he was not going to leave David’s side...
- b. Listen, if you want to be an effective, mighty Christian, you need to be completely committed and loyal to Jesus Christ
 - i. A steadfast commitment to Jesus Christ that knows no retreat, no recoil, no relapse, no backslide, nor hesitation
 - ii. A commitment to Jesus Christ that will boldly declare, *“...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”*
 - iii. The greats of the Kingdom of God have been men and women who were completely committed to the Lord Jesus Christ
 - iv. Those who were willing to follow and obey Jesus no matter what the cost – *“They were Committed 2 Him”*
- c. Sadly, “Commitment” is a dying characteristic amongst Christianity today...
 - i. Many start off strong, but once the trials and tribulations come, they began to retreat because they have no commitment...
 - ii. Yet, God is looking for men and women, young and old, who like Eleazar, will stay committed in spite opposition
 - iii. When everyone else is retreating, they are standing beside their Lord and saying, *“I will not leave you – I will not be moved”*

- iv. When everyone else is resigning, they are standing beside their ministry and saying, ***“I will stay committed – I will not give up”***
- v. *Mighty Christians are Committed Christians...*
- d. Therefore, the second characteristic of a mighty Christian is “Commitment” – a complete commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ

IV. **Characteristic #3 – “Dedication to the Word of God”**

- a. In 2 Samuel 23:10, we read, “He (Eleazar) 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”
 - i. The third characteristic of a mighty Christian is dedication to the Word of God – a dedication to study, to share, and to stand by the Bible
 - ii. In **verse 10**, we are told that Eleazar attacked the Philistines until his hand was weary and stuck to his sword
 - iii. Eleazar kept fighting off the Philistines with his sword, to such a point, that his hand froze, or stuck, to the sword
 - iv. Whatever happened, Eleazar was not going to let go of his sword, and the Lord brought a great victory that day...
- b. Hebrews 4:12a declares, “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword...”
 - i. Listen, if you want to be an effective, mighty Christian, you need to be completely dedicated to the Word of God
 - ii. Dedicated to studying the Word, living the Word, sharing the Word, defending the Word, and believing the Word
 - iii. We need to ***stick*** to the Word of God and not try to substitute it with the words of men or the philosophies of this world
- c. Regardless of what the world says, I still believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and I am going to stick to its message...
 - i. Like Eleazar, I refuse to let go of my *Sword* – I refuse to let go of the promises of God, the commands of God, and the instructions of God
 - ii. The Bible has not failed me yet, and I know it never will...
 - iii. It will continue to bring hope, strength, comfort, correction, instruction, and guidance to my life
 - iv. And I’m going to stick with it – ***“What about you?”***
- d. Therefore, the third characteristic of a mighty Christian is “Dedication to the Word of God” – may we be men and women of “One Book – God’s Book”

V. **So, in closing, we see that a mighty Christian is a Christian dependent upon God, committed to the Son of God, and dedicated to the Word of God**

- a. This week, be a *mighty* Christian, make a difference in the Kingdom of God – next week, we will continue our study and look at more characteristics of a “*Mighty Christian*”
 - i. All those in need of prayer, please come up to the altar after we dismiss, and allow us to pray for you...