

- 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 Chapter 23, we find recorded for us a list of men who are commonly referred to as “David’s Mighty Men”
    - i. The Bible tells us that they were men of distress, debt, and discontentment, who began to follow David...
    - ii. And as they began to follow David, their lives began to change drastically and radically for the good
    - iii. They went from being the “*outcast of society*” to the “*heroes of the land*” – they **greatly impacted** the Kingdom of David...
  - b. And last week, we began a study entitled “Mighty Christians”
    - i. David’s mighty men can teach us many characteristics and qualities which make up a mighty, effective, influential Christian
    - ii. I don’t believe that God has called us to be *average* Christians, but on the contrary, I believe that God has called us to be *mighty* Christians
    - iii. Christians who influence, impact, defend, and expand the Kingdom of God for the glory of Jesus Christ...
    - iv. Now, last week, we started our study by looking at “**three characteristics**” which make up a mighty Christian –Let’s review them:
  - c. Characteristic #1 – “Dependency”
    - i. The first characteristic of a mighty Christian is dependency – complete dependency upon God...
    - ii. If you want to be an effective, mighty Christian, you need to learn to completely depend and trust in God
    - iii. Dependency upon God is not a sign of weakness, but a sign of strength, therefore, always depend upon and trust in God...
  - d. Characteristic #2 – “Commitment”
    - i. The second characteristic of a mighty Christian is commitment – complete commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ
    - ii. If you want to be an effective, mighty Christian, you need to be completely committed and loyal to the Lord Jesus Christ
    - iii. *Mighty* Christians are *Committed* Christians – those who know no retreat, no recoil, no relapse, no backslide, nor hesitation
  - e. Characteristic #3 – “Dedication to the Word of God”
    - 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. If you want to be an effective, mighty Christian, you need to be completely dedicated to the Word of God
    - iii. Regardless of what the world says, I still believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and I am going to **stick** to its message...

- f. Now, this morning, we are going to continue our study and look at “three more characteristics” of a mighty Christian
  - i. This we will do be examining the warriors mentioned in **2 Samuel Chapter 23:11-17 – Let’s begin**

## II. Characteristic #4 – “Faithfulness”

- a. In 2 Samuel 23:11-12a, we read, “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. But he stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines...”
  - i. The fourth characteristic of a mighty Christian is *faithfulness* – a continuous faithfulness towards the Lord Jesus Christ
  - ii. In **verses 11-12**, we are introduced to Shammah the Son of Agee who faithfully defended a bean field against the Philistines
  - iii. The Philistines had gathered near a bean field, and even though the people began to flee, Shammah stood his ground, defended the field, and killed the Philistines; he risked his life to faithfully defend the field
  - iv. You see, to Shammah, this was not simply a bean field, but it was the inheritance of the Lord – given to the people of Israel by God...
  - v. And Shammah understood that he needed to be faithful – he couldn’t *abandon* or *leave* that which was given to him by the Lord
  - vi. Therefore, he stationed himself in the middle of the field, and faithfully defended it against the Philistines – **“What a Testimony!”**
- b. Listen, if you want to be an effective, mighty Christian, you need to be a faithful Christian
  - i. Faithful to all that God has entrusted you with – faithful to your wife, to your family, to your church, to your ministry, to your responsibilities
  - ii. You see, God has entrusted each and every one of us with many blessings – resources, talents, abilities, gifts, ministries, family, etc.
  - iii. And we need to be faithful in all the God has given us – **“Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful” Cf. 1 Cor. 4:2**
- c. God is looking to use man and woman who are going to be faithful – those who are trustworthy, dependable, and reliable...
  - i. Those who will not be so easily moved or shaken, but like Shammah, they *faithfully* stand by and defend their inheritance of the Lord
  - ii. When everyone else is forsaking their inheritance, and abandoning their responsibilities, they are staying faithful till the end...
  - iii. In **Revelation 2:10**, the Lord Jesus declared – **“Be faithful until death”**
- d. One day, I am going to stand face to face with King Jesus, and my greatest desire is to hear these words come from His mouth, “Well done, good and

*faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”*

- i. However, to hear these words, I need to be faithful in everything the Lord has given me – regardless if its big or small, much, or few
- ii. Whether it’s a bean field, or an entire city, be faithful – ***“He is faithful to you, shouldn’t you be faithful to Him – I think so...”***
- e. Therefore, the fourth characteristic of a mighty Christian is faithfulness – Don’t be so quick to abandon or neglect that which God has given you...

### III. Characteristic #5 – “Humility”

- a. In 2 Samuel 23:12, we read, “But he stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the Lord brought about a great victory”
  - i. The fifth characteristic of a mighty Christian is **humility** – a humble, meek spirit before the Lord Jesus Christ
  - ii. In vs. 12, after Shammah defended his inheritance against the Philistines, we read the words ***“So the Lord brought about a great victory”***
  - iii. As I read those words, one thing comes to my mind, ***“Shammah was humble – he was quick to give all the credit and glory to the Lord”***
  - iv. You see, it would have been easy for Shammah to have gotten the credit and glory for the victory against the Philistines
  - v. I’m sure news of his victory spread like wild fire amongst the people, yet, wherever Shammah went, he was quick to say, ***“The Lord brought a great victory to the land”*** – he was humble...
- b. Listen, if you want to be an effective, mighty Christian, you need to be humble – keep your heart humble before the Lord...
  - i. Pride is so deadly and dangerous, we need stay away from it – ***“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall”*** Cf. Prov. 16:18
  - ii. Countless believers have been made ineffective and fruitless in their Christian walk and service because of pride...
  - iii. God starts using them and blessing them, however, over time, they began to get filled with pride, and with pride, comes destruction
  - iv. A good example of this truth is found in the life of King Saul – God exalted Saul amongst the people, but over time, Saul began to get prideful, and ultimately, his pride led to his destruction...
  - v. Eventually, God rejected Saul from ruling over His people, and He raised up a humble shepherd boy to take Saul’s place – ***“King David”***
- c. Therefore, if you want to be effective, influential, and great in the Kingdom of God, you need to stay humble in the Kingdom of God...
  - i. In Mathew 18:4, the Lord Jesus declared, ***“Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven”***

- ii. May we never forget that everything we are, everything we have, and everything we are able to do, is simply, by the grace of God
- iii. He is the One worthy of the “praise, honor, and glory,” not me, I am simply a servant doing my duty (\*nothing more or nothing less\*)
- iv. There can only be one King in the Kingdom of God, and that King is King Jesus – “*He must increase and I must decrease!*”
- d. Therefore, the fifth characteristic of a mighty Christian is humility – “Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up” Cf. James 4:10

#### IV. Characteristic #6 – “Communion”

- a. In 2 Samuel Chapter 23:13, we read, “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”
  - i. The sixth characteristic of a mighty Christian is **communion** – constant communion and fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ
  - ii. In **verse 13**, we are told that three of the mighty men went to David when he was in the cave of Adullam
  - iii. Before we are told about their courageous act, we are first told that they “went to David,” in other words, they “*communed with David*”
  - iv. These mighty men made the effort to travel to the place where David was at simply because they wanted to spend time with their Captain
  - v. You see, the more they were with David, the more they became like David...
- b. Listen, if you want to be an effective, mighty Christian, you need to make sure you are spending time with your Captain – “The Lord Jesus Christ”
  - i. Communion and fellowship with the Lord should be a top priority – everyday, you should be seeking out His presence...
  - ii. Whether you’re at church, at work, at school, or at home, there should be a constant awareness and consciousness of the presence of God
  - iii. You see, nothing in this world can compare to spending time communing and fellowship with the Lord Jesus...
  - iv. It brings such great blessings to the life of a believer – strength, direction, guidance, comfort, refreshment, assurance, joy, peace, etc.
  - v. **Psalm 16:11** – “*You will show me the path of life; In your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*”
- c. Whatever you could possibly need, want, or desire, is found in the presence of the Lord, therefore, I encourage you to “Spend time with Him”
  - i. Like David’s Mighty Men, as you spend time with the Lord, you will become more like Him...
  - ii. You will begin to be conformed and molded into the image of Christ – thus, you can see why it is so important to spend time with Him

- iii. And this morning, and this week, and this month, and this year, the Lord tells us, “*Come on in – I am waiting for you – Let’s hang out*”
  - iv. May God give us the grace to daily accept His invitation...
  - d. Therefore, the third characteristic of a mighty Christian is communion – “When You said, ‘Seek My face,’ My heart said to You, ‘Your face, Lord, I will seek.’” Cf. Psalm 27:8
- V. So, in closing, we see that a mighty Christian is a faithful Christian, a humble Christian, and a Christian who communes with the Lord
- a. And this morning, before we dismiss, we are going to spend some time communing with the Lord as we partake of the Lord’s supper – Let’s pray