

- 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 Samuel Chapter 23, 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, bravery, and mighty deeds
 - iii. They **greatly impacted** the Kingdom of David...
 - b. And for the past few weeks, we have been examining a study which I have entitled “Mighty Christians” taken from 2 Samuel Ch. 23
 - i. David’s mighty men can teach us many characteristics and qualities which make up a mighty, effective, influential Christian
 - ii. Greatness in the Kingdom of God has nothing to do with 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, how much we make, or what we can do, but He is concerned with **who we are** and **what we do**...
 - c. Now, last week, we continued our study and looked at “three more characteristics” which make up a mighty Christian...
 - i. Let’s briefly review them:
 - d. Characteristic #4 – “Faithfulness”
 - i. The fourth characteristic of a mighty Christian is *faithfulness* – a continuous, steadfast faithfulness towards the Lord Jesus
 - ii. If you want to be an effective, mighty Christian, you need to be a faithful Christian (i.e. trustworthy, dependable, reliable)
 - iii. Faithful to all God has entrusted you with – Don’t be so quick to abandon, neglect, or forsake that which God has given you...
 - e. Characteristic #5 – “Humility”
 - i. The fifth characteristic of a mighty Christian is *humility* – maintaining a meek, lowly, humble spirit before the Lord Jesus
 - ii. If you want to be an effective, mighty Christian, you need to be a humble Christian...
 - iii. Countless believers have been made ineffective and fruitless in their Christian walk and service because of pride (*pride is very dangerous*)
 - iv. Therefore, stay humble in the Kingdom of God...
 - f. Characteristic #6 – “Communion”
 - i. The sixth characteristic of a mighty Christian is *communion* – constant communion and fellowship with the Lord Jesus

- ii. If you want to be an effective, mighty Christian, you need to make sure you are spending time with your Captain, Jesus Christ
- iii. Everything you could possibly need, desire, or want, is found in His presence, therefore, spend time with Him
- g. Now, this morning, we are going to finish up our study and look at “three more characteristics” of a mighty Christian
 - i. This we will do by examining the warriors mentioned in **2 Samuel Chapter 23:14-22**

II. Characteristic #7 – “Sacrifice”

- a. Let’s read *2 Samuel Chapter 23:14-17*
 - i. The seventh characteristic of a mighty Christian is **Sacrifice** – a willingness to sacrifice, surrender, and submit everything to the Lordship of Jesus Christ
 - ii. In **verses 14-17**, we are told that three of David’s mighty men sacrificed everything to fulfill the desire of their King
 - iii. As David was in a stronghold, he began to *long* and *desire* for a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem
 - iv. David began to reminisce on his childhood, being raised in Bethlehem, he grew up drinking from the well of Bethlehem
 - v. And now, he had one desire, and one alone, to drink once again from the well of Bethlehem...
 - vi. Yet, there was one big problem, Bethlehem was filled with David’s enemies, the Philistines
 - vii. So, to reach the well in Bethlehem, and draw some water, would be very dangerous and deadly – **a great sacrifice...**
 - viii. However, three of David’s mighty men were willing to make that sacrifice to fulfill the *desire* and *longing* of their King...
 - ix. They were willing to pay the ultimate price simply to bring joy to their King – **“They valued the desires of David more than their own lives”**
 - x. Therefore, they broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well in Bethlehem, and brought it to David
 - xi. The mighty men sacrificed everything to fulfill the desire of their King
- b. Listen, if you want to be an effective, mighty Christian, you need to be a Christian of sacrifice
 - i. You must be willingly to sacrifice, surrender, and submit everything to the Lordship of Jesus Christ
 - ii. The Christian walk is a walk of sacrifice...
 - iii. The Lord Jesus declared, **“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.”** – Luke 9:23-24

- c. We must be willing to sacrifice everything and anything to fulfill the desires, purposes, and will of our King, King Jesus
 - i. Sadly, so many Christians today struggle with the idea of sacrifice – many Christians make sacrifices for the Lord only when it’s convenient for them...
 - ii. They say to the Lord, “*Lord, You can have my family, but please don’t touch my money; Lord, You can have me on Sunday, but please don’t touch my on Monday*”
 - iii. The Christian walk has been turned into something convenient, rather than something sacrificial (*It has been cheapened*)
 - iv. It is no longer about what the servants can do for their Master, but it is all about what the Master can do for the servants...
 - v. Christianity is portrayed today as a social club, free from responsibility, sacrifice, and loyalty
- d. Yet, this is not the Christianity we read about in the New Testament
 - i. The Christian walk is a walk filled with sacrifice, filled with devotion, and filled with inconveniences...
 - ii. The Lord Jesus wants all of you, and if He can’t have all of you, He can’t have any of you
 - iii. Every talent, every ability, every resource, every goal, every ambition, and every desire, must be sacrificed and surrendered to King Jesus...
 - iv. You see, it is only when you are completely surrendered and submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ that you are truly free
 - v. Therefore, if you are holding back or holding on to something, this morning, I would encourage you to *let go* and *give it* to the Lord...
- e. Countless missionaries, pastors, and evangelist, impacted the entire world for the Kingdom of God because they simply learned to let go and sacrifice
 - i. Therefore, the seventh characteristic of a mighty Christian is sacrifice – “*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service*” Cf. Romans 12:1

III. Characteristic #8 – “Selflessness”

- a. Let’s read *2 Samuel Chapter 23:18
 - i. The eighth characteristic of a mighty Christian is **Selflessness** – a willingness to put others before yourself
 - ii. In **verse 18**, we are introduced to Abishai the son of Zeruah who lifted his spear against three hundred men and killed them (*A Mighty Act*)
 - iii. Now, this is not the first time we read about this warrior, but in ***2 Samuel 21:15-17*** we are told about another mighty act accomplished by Abishai – **Let’s read it together...**

- iv. Here in Chapter 21, we are told that David and his servants went to go fight against the Philistines
- v. However, as David was fighting against the Philistines, he began to grow faint, in other words, he began to get tired
- vi. And as David got tired, he was approached by a giant, Ishbi-Benob, who thought he could kill David (Possibly a relative of Goliath)
- vii. But, as this Giant approached David, we are told that Abishai came to David's aid and struck down the Giant and killed him
- viii. Therefore, we see that Abishai risked his own life to help David – he committed a selfless act, valuing David's safety over his own...
- b. Listen, if you want to be an effective, mighty Christian, you need to be a selfless Christian
 - i. You must be willing to go out of your way to help, assist, and aid those who are in need
 - ii. You must be willing to put others before yourself – a heart set on helping the less fortunate...
 - iii. **James 1:27a** declares, "*Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble...*"
- c. The world is filled with hungry, hurting, lost people, and as the church of Jesus Christ, we must go out of our way to help them and reach them...
 - i. I personally believe that God has blessed us in order that we might be a blessing to others – "*We are blessed to bless*"
 - ii. God has given us so much, physically, mentally, and spiritually, and we must use it to help others in need...
 - iii. Therefore, be selfless, be generous, be considerate – always look for ways and opportunities that you can help someone in need
 - iv. Whether it is something big or small, as you give, help, and share, you will make a great impact in someone's life and you will make a great impact in the Kingdom of God...
- d. Mother Teresa declared, "If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one...intense love does not measure, it just gives"
 - i. It is not about what others can do for you, but it is all about what you can do for others...
 - ii. In **Acts 20:35**, we read the words of the Lord Jesus, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive*"
- e. Therefore, the eighth characteristic of a mighty Christian is selflessness – God wants to reach the lost and help the needy through you...will you allow Him?

IV. Characteristic #9 – "Courage"

- a. Let's read *2 Samuel Chapter 23:20-22*
 - i. The ninth characteristic of a mighty Christian is **Courage** – a courage to take a stand for Jesus Christ

- ii. In verses **20-22**, we are introduced to Benaiah the son of Jehoiada a valiant man from Kabzeel
 - iii. Benaiah was a brave, mighty warrior who had done many courageous deeds in the land of Israel
 - iv. He had killed two lion-like heroes of Moab, he had killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day, and he had killed an Egyptian giant
 - v. No matter what came his way, Benaiah **courageously** confronted it and defeated it in the name of the Lord...
 - vi. Benaiah was not so easily shaken, intimidated, or afraid, but he courageously took a stand before his enemies – knowing that if the Lord was with him, nobody could be against him
 - vii. Interestingly, the name Benaiah means “**The Lord has built,**” and I’m sure Benaiah understood that what the Lord had built, nobody could tear down...
- b. Listen, if you want to be a mighty, effective Christian, you need to be a courageous Christian – “Be bold to take a stand for Jesus”
- i. Don’t be afraid to take a stand for Jesus Christ in the midst of opposition and persecution
 - ii. Don’t be afraid to confront the obstacles of life in the power of the Spirit and in the name of the Lord Jesus
 - iii. **Ephesians 6:10** declares, “*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might*”
- c. Yes, life is hard, yes the Christian walk is difficult, yes you will be tested, but God has given us His Word that He will never leave us nor forsake us
- i. He has promised us that in His Son we are more than Conquerors and no weapon formed against us shall prosper
 - ii. Therefore, take courage, hold on to the promises of God, let go of the fear and doubt, and allow God to bring the victory in your life
 - iii. **2 Timothy 1:7** declares, “*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind*”
 - iv. **Joshua 1:9** declares, “*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*”
- d. Therefore, the ninth characteristic of a mighty Christian is courage – “If God is for us, who can be against us” Cf. Romans 8:31
- i. Beloved Christian, don’t ever give up and don’t ever give in...

V. So, in closing, we see that a mighty Christian is a Christian of sacrifice, of selflessness, and of courage

- a. This week, be a mighty Christian, make a difference in the Kingdom of God, one life at a time...Let’s pray