

I'M NOT LEAVING THIS PEA-PATCH

Text: II Samuel 23:11-12

Key Word: Victory

Key Thought: God Makes Us Victorious in the Battles We Face

*** During the early 80's, I felt a call upon my life to attend Bible College. I struggled with the thought of leaving a good job and bringing my wife and children into a whole new way of living. But the call was relentless, and therefore, I had to go.

We packed up our belongings and headed to Edmonton. I thought that now God was going to REALLY bless us because we were walking in His perfect will. Bible College began and I quickly made the adjustments necessary to become a student of the Word. As I was being faithful to my studies, the bills kept coming in and soon our savings account was being rapidly depleted. I prayed that God would supply a job and I was able to work after school and still provide the finances necessary to pay the bills.

Then my right hip began to give me trouble. I ended up having to walk with crutches and soon I had to take time off of work. During the time off, my job position was given to another person. I knew I didn't have enough money to go on without a job. I could only trust in God that He would supply all my needs.

With less than a week before school began, God worked out all the details and I was given back my job that lasted until a few months before my third year of school ended. I could have easily given in to the temptation to leave Bible College but I was determined to make it my priority. I had to trust in the Lord for Him to do His part if I faithfully did mine. ***

I have found that anything that is worthwhile is worthwhile standing up for. If it is worth something, the enemy will try to claim it as his own. We must learn a few lessons in order to stand our ground and claim what is rightfully ours.

There Are at Least Three Important Truths That Appear in Our Text.

- I. THE TITLE (II Samuel 23:11a)**
- II. THE BATTLE (II Samuel 23:11b)**
- III. THE VICTORY (II Samuel 23:12)**

I. THE TITLE (II Samuel 23:11a)

The Bible is full of examples of men and women who stood their ground when the enemy came in like a flood to destroy them. Our text offers us one of these men who fought for what he believed. In fact **Shammah** is recorded as not just one of the thirty great men of King David (cf. II Samuel 23:25,32) but also one of the six men known as his chief warriors. **He was one of the best of the best.** He was one that David could count upon when the going got tough. Many scholars believe that he is the one listed in I Chronicles 27:8 as one of the heads of the families and that he was in charge of 24,000 men.

Here is a name that is first listed as a grandson of Esau (Genesis 36:13,17). The name was also given to the third son of Jesse (I Samuel 16:9; 17:13). It had always been a name of high esteem in Hebrew thought. The name had several meanings including *“ruin; desolate, astonishment, waste; wonderful thing.”* It came from a prime word meaning *“to stun; to astonish; to make desolate; to destroy.”*

Did you know that the titles God gives you are very important when it comes to standing and overcoming the assaults of the enemy? The Bible is full of names that the church has been given as a wonderful display of who were truly are.

A. Living Stones; Holy Priesthood/Nation; Chosen People (I Peter 2:5,9)

These are powerful truths for the church to believe and practice. We are not some dead body of lifeless organisms roaming about in a despairing manner with no purpose or direction. **We are Living Stones.** This temple of the Holy Spirit is alive unto Christ. We are brought together to strengthen and uphold each other. We are uniquely placed into the body of Christ to fulfill a certain role.

We are also to be a Holy Priesthood/Nation. The church is not to be a place where everything goes and we accept anything that the adulterated minds of sinful men craftily try to introduce into the Church of the Living God. We are to display the Holiness of God. We are not just a few select people huddling into a corner and waiting for Jesus to return. We are a nation of people who have been chosen of God to carry the gospel message to the ends of the earth.

We are not a bunch of fools as the world often declares us to be. It is a fool who says in his heart that there is no God. It is the fool who trusts in a condom to protect him from the diseases that will eventually kill him while he mocks at the Word of God that says to keep yourself pure. It is the fool who takes the name of the Lord in vain. It is a fool who misuses the body God trusted him with and is overcome by the sickness of cancer and other diseases.

I. THE TITLE (II Samuel 23:11a)(Contd.)

A. Living Stones; Holy Priesthood/Nation; Chosen People (I Peter 2:5,9) (Contd.)

*** A generation ago, Dr. F.B. Meyers said this about the local church. *“It is urgently needful that the Christian people of our charge should come to understand that they are not a company of invalids, to be wheeled about, or fed by hand, cosseted, nursed, and comforted, the minister being the Head Physician and Nurse; but a garrison in an enemy’s country, every soldier of which should have some post or duty, at which he should be prepared to make any sacrifice rather than quitting.”* ***

Michael Green
“Illustration for Biblical Preaching”
#187, p. 64

B. Treasure in a Jars of Clay (II Corinthians 4:7)

We are precious gem in God’s treasure. We are not some discarded piece of human garbage that is used and misused by a thoughtless world and then thrown into the dump of abandoned and forgotten lives. Every child of God is a special treasure. **You have been bought with the price of the precious blood of Jesus Christ.**

We realize that we are simply jars of clay but God fashions and molds us into a vessel which is worthy of His use. The Bible makes it clear that a man is to cleanse himself from everything that contaminates the flesh so that . . .

“He will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful for the Master and prepared to do any good work.”

II Timothy 2:21b

When we consider the short story that is told about him in our text we begin to see how **Shammah** lived up to his name. He was going to make **ruin, desolate, waste; destroy the enemies of God** and in so doing he would **stun and astonish** the nation of Israel with the **wonderful thing** of deliverance from the hands of the Philistines.

II. THE BATTLE (II Samuel 23:11b)

God had given the children of Israel a land of promise, flowing with milk and honey. It was a choice land. A land of opportunity. It was a land close to the original Garden of Eden. It was the place that God originally gave to Abraham and his offspring. When God gives us a gift, we can expect to receive the best.

It served as a demonstration of salvation. It was a free gift from God. The Israelites could not earn it. They couldn't do anything to barter or buy it. It was to be a place of healing, health, joy, prosperity, security and victory. God intended for it to be a place of blessing. **But there was a problem facing the children of Israel just as is happening today.**

When they entered the land, they had to drive out the inhabitants as God worked through their lives. **Salvation is free but we must still work at driving out the forces that try to take back what legally belongs to us.** The enemy doesn't play by the rules. He will take back everything we allow him to.

The Philistines came to rape the Israelites of God's blessing. They would wait until the people had tilled their land, planted their crops, weeded the growing shoots, fertilized and watered them. Once the crops were ready to be harvested, the Philistines would appear in the distance. They would be riding their giant horses. They were clad in shining armor. They would shout their war cries. The people of God would retreat in fear (II Samuel 23:9c, 11c). **They would encompass the land and take the peas (lentils) before the children of Israel could benefit from them.**

The enemy does the same today. We raise our **children** for God - we bring them up on the Word of God and prayer and once they reach their teenage years many turn away from God. They are stolen from us.

Some Christians have served the Lord all their life only to die on a bed of **sickness**. Others have faced severe **financial pressures** while doing the will of God. I've met some who are bound by **depression and fear** and cannot work through a normal day without **emotional upheavals**. The battle is indeed on for the Promises of God.

*“For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.
21. **Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ.** He anointed us,
22. set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”*

II Corinthians 1:20-22

III. THE VICTORY (II Samuel 23:12)

Shammah had enough of the enemy's tactics of war. He would rather die fighting than face the embarrassment of another year without enough food to eat.

“But Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field.”

II Samuel 23:12a

Shammah stood right in the place that he knew the enemy would attack and attempt to rob him, his family and his nation. There is no account that anyone else stood with him. **There are times we must stand alone in battle.** Many battles can be won simply by taking a stand. **Don't be intimidated by those who wrestle against your godly values. The Church must get tired of running. Why do we often act like a beggar when we are indeed a child of the King of kings and Lord of lords?**

This pea-patch didn't belong to the Philistines. They hadn't worked and toiled over it while the scorching sun beat upon their backs. The peas didn't belong to them. They were Israelite peas. **Shammah was not about to share God's glory and blessing with the enemy so they could boast once again.**

Just like Nehemiah, when facing Sanballat, Tobiah, and Gershem when rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem, Shammah took his stand. Remember the words of Nehemiah.

*I answered them by saying, “The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, **you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it.**”*

Nehemiah 2:20

Shammah set the record straight. **“I'M NOT LEAVING THIS PEA-PATCH!!!”** Enough is enough. **The first Philistine who placed his foot on the pea-patch paid for it with his life.** The next one who attempted to steal the crop layed in his pool of blood as well. **Each and everyone that attempted to kill, steal and destroy was defeated.** Their guilt was turned back upon them. **Shammah stood his ground and won in the name of Jehovah.**

“And the LORD brought about a great victory.”

II Samuel 23:12

It was clear to see that God had fought the battle because **Shammah** would not compromise with his convictions. He would die fighting for what he believed was rightfully his.

III. THE VICTORY (II Samuel 23:12) (Contd.)

*“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of this world. **On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.***

5. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

*6. **And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.**”*

II Corinthians 10:4-6

In the war of right and wrong, we can't afford to be neutral.”

E.C. McKenzie
“14,000 Quips and Quotes”
p. 541

TURNING THE STORM CLOUD INTO A CHARIOT

*** An eagle sits on a crag and watches the sky as it is filling with blackness, and the streaks of lightning as they shoot their jagged bolts of light.

He sits perfectly still . . . until he begins to feel the burst of breeze and knows the hurricane is about to strike. Then he swings his breast to the storm, and uses the wind to lift him up into the sky. Away he goes, borne upon the wind of the storm.

This is what God wants of his children - to be more than a conqueror. **We can turn a storm cloud into a chariot of fire.”*****

Sunday School Times
“Knights Master Book of Illustrations”
Yellow Book, p. 716

C:\My Documents\WPWin(21)\Sermons.2024\Warfare\II Samuel 23_11.12.wpd

Date: Nov 3/24

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: BLOW THE TRUMPET - Dm, F

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