

## STANDING TO WIN

**Text: II Samuel 23:8-10**

**Key Word:** Value

**Key Thought:** What Kind of People Does God Value during Difficult Times

The Bible places a high value on those who are faithful to God. There are many lists that record the “unsung heroes” of our faith. God never forgets the heroic stand that we take to proclaim Him as Lord of our lives. God uses daily circumstances to bring about changes in our lives and the lives of those around us.

It was in “*Gath*” (“*Winepress*”), which was one of the five principal cities of the Philistines that King David acted as if he was out of his mind (“*pretended to be insane*” - I Samuel 21:13) in order to save his life from his enemies. It was during this time that Psalm 34 was written. Here God put him through the winepress in order to bring out the best in him.

King David was used by God to bring about a remarkable change in a forsaken group of men.

*“David left Gath (lit - “winepress”) and escaped to the cave of Adullam (lit - “retreat or refuge”). When his brothers and father’s household heard about it, they went down to him there.  
2. All those who were in **distress or in debt or discontented** gathered around him, and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him.”*

*I Samuel 22:1,2*

After being pressed out by God, David retreated to the cave of Adullam. It became a retreat or a place of refuge from the assaults of the enemy. It was there that his family gathered around him. Most likely to comfort and encourage him. There is also a strong belief that his family came because they recognized they were also in danger of Saul’s revenge as long as they stayed in Bethlehem. It’s not unusual for families to come together during times of trouble.

According to I Samuel 23:13, David’s band grew to number 600. It was these **distressed, debt ridden, discontented** group of malcontents that eventually grew to become a fighting force that overcame the Philistines and other rival nations.

Our text brings us to a place in time when David had an opportunity to display his leadership skills to this motley crew of society’s rejects. Six men (II Samuel 23:8-12 and 23:13-23) stood out though as David’s chief and mighty men in a list of thirty-seven (II Samuel 23:39) which is increased by sixteen more men listed in I Chronicles 11:10-47.

**Have You Ever Wondered What Kind of People God Values as Worthy to Receive Honour?** Have you ever decided to become the best that God could make of you? If so, what would you strive to become.

**I. One Who Stands for Truth**

**II. One Who Strains for Trust**

**III. One Who Struggles for Triumph**

### **I. One Who Stands for Truth**

David had been anointed by Samuel to be the king of Israel (I Samuel 16:12,13). This took place about the year 1063 BC. Within a year (I Samuel 22:1-2) he found himself in the cave of Adullam along with 400 men. At the end of David's reign as king we have the list of these mighty men of valour. This was about 1018 BC or about 45 years later. According to II Samuel 5:4,5, David reigned for 33 years as king of Judah and Israel and 7 years as the king of Judah while living in Hebron.

During this time King David had to learn the importance of living a life of truth. He made a number of Psalms that proclaimed the importance of truth.

*“Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths;  
5. **Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.**”*

*Psalms 25:4,5*

*“Mercy (Love - NIV) and truth (faithfulness - NIV) are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.”*

*Psalms 85:5*

“Many people don't actually lie; they merely present the truth in such a way that nobody recognizes it.”

“Fishing is a sport that makes men and truth strangers.”

Of course truth hurts. You would too if you got stretched so much.”

*E.C.McKenzie  
“14,000 Quips and Quotes”  
p. 521*

## I. One Who Stands for Truth (Contd.)

\*\* At a reception in Washington, a young man was asked by a widow to guess her age. “*You must have some idea,*” she said, as he hesitated.

“*I have several ideas,*” he admitted, with a smile.

“*The trouble is that I hesitate whether to make it ten years younger on account of your looks or ten years older on account of your intelligence.*” \*\*

\*\*\* “*My poor fellow,*” said the lady, “*here is a quarter for you. It must be dreadful to be lame, but just think how much worse it would be if you were blind.*”

“*Yer right, lady,*” agreed the beggar. “*When I was blind I was always getting counterfeit money.*”\*\*\*

Bob Phillips  
“*More Clean Jokes*”  
pp. 63-64

## II. One Who Strains for Trust

It is not easy to gain the trust of people in a world like ours. There used to be a day when a man’s word was his honour. Giving a handshake was trusted to the point that a person didn’t need to sign their name. Today people look you right in the eye and lie. **Whom can you really trust today?**

“Trust in God and keep your powder dry.”

Oliver Cromwell  
(choose their own ministers,  
who should serve them by preaching  
and extemporaneous prayer).

“We trust in God. All others pay in cash!”

“*Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men,  
who cannot save you.*”

*Psalm 146:3*

Job could openly declare the fact that he fully trusted in God.

“*Though he slay me, yet will I trust **him.***”

*Job 13:15*

## II. One Who Strains for Trust (Contd.)

Trust is something that is earned. Both **Josheb-Basshebeth and Eleazar** were valiant men of David's army that could be trusted with his life. They would put themselves at a dangerous risk in order to save David's life. **They strained ahead in order to be trusted in everything they did.** Their word would stand in the midst of accusations.

Would you be foolish enough to stand against 800 men in your own strength? I doubt it. **Josheb-Basshebeth** means "*him that sitteth in the seat.*" He was one who realized **his position with God** a thousand years before the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus.

***“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7. in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.”***

*Ephesians 2:6,7*

This verse of Scripture was written for the Church to know their position in God, and then strain forward at gaining the trust that comes with it. **In one battle this man of valor stood against 800 skilled soldiers and defeated them all.**

## III. One Who Struggles for Triumph

But there was another soldier who could also be trusted. His name was "*Eleazar.*" This name was first given to the third son of Aaron (Exodus 6:23) who was the first high priest of the children of Israel. The name means "*God is my helper.*" It is made of two words "*El*" meaning "*Almighty God*" and "*azar*" meaning "*to help, surround, protect, or aid.*" The reason Eleazar could be trusted was because he came to realize that he could also place his full trust in the Almighty God that he came to know through watching King David during his times of overcoming his enemies.

He stood his ground at "*Pas Dammin*" which means "*place of bloodshed.*" According to I Chronicles 11:12-14, **Eleazar stood his ground in a field full of barley.** The rest of David's men fled but Eleazar fought the battle until his hand froze to the sword he used. David's other men returned but only after this man of valor stood his ground. **They came back NOT to destroy the enemy but to the strip the dead of their belongings.**

**It is not easy to stand when all others flee. This man stood his ground in a battle field that was full of danger lurking from every shadow. It is easier to destroy your enemy when you can see them coming at you. The barley field would offer a certain amount of covering for the Philistines. Many times we tend to triumph in the midst of difficult surroundings. It is then that we stand out as one who TRIUMPHS THROUGH STRUGGLE and STRUGGLES FOR TRIUMPH.**

### III. One Who Struggles for Triumph(Contd.)

#### 6865 “Changing Pastures”

\*\*\* I saw the other day a painting of a large boat laden with cattle that were being ferried across an angry, swollen river during the time of a storm. The artist had so cleverly pictured the dark, threatening clouds and the play of the treacherous, jagged lightning that I immediately concluded that the freight of the poor, dumb cattle were marked for destruction. But the title of the picture was simply, “Changing Pastures.” \*\*\*

Paul Lee Tan

*“Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations”*

p. 1510

C:\My Documents\WPWin(21)\Sermons.2024\Warfare\II Samuel 23\_8.10.wpd

Date: Oct 27/24

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: BUT THOU O LORD (Art a Shield for Me) - Am, Bm

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*Psalm 25:4,5; Psalm 85:5*

### II. One Who Strains for Trust

*Psalm 146:3; Job 13:15;*

**Josheb-Basshebeth** means *“him that sitteth in the seat.”*

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