

- ***Read I Chronicles 11:1-3*** Rarely is the rise of a powerful person or powerful movement ever a result of single person doing all of the heavy lifting. More often than not, The rise of a great person or movement is the result of much hard work done by at least a few individuals. Even Jesus's work here on earth was greatly aided by the work that was put in by His Apostles after His ascension. Great things require great efforts by many.
- The ascension of David to the kingship of Israel is no exception. David becoming king certainly was the will of God, but here were many individuals that put in great efforts to have this come to past. The follow text in **I Chronicles 11** details much of the work that was done by individuals who played a key role in David becoming the king of Israel. Tonight, I would like for us to consider some of these Mighty Men of David and the qualities they possessed that helped them to perform their mighty deeds.

I. David's Mighty Men

A. Joab took initiative. (vv.4-7)

1. As David as his men are looking to take the city of Jerusalem, which was currently held by the Jebusites, he is in need of someone who was willing to step up and make the first move for David's men. Joab was that man who was willing to step up and make that first move.
2. This strong move by Joab was instrumental to the success of taking the city of David. Often it takes that first person making the first move for something great to take place, and Joab was willing to be that first person to make the first move.

B. Jashobeam overcame immense odds. (vv.10,11)

1. Even with the odds stacked greatly against him, Jashobeam was willing and able to take on 300 men by himself and defeat all of them.
2. The odds certainly were not in his favor, but Jashobeam picked up his spear anyways and fought against the army of enemies. Sometimes the odds might seem stacked against us, but like the mighty Jashobeam, we must be willing to step up and take on whatever might be before us.

C. Eleazar didn't give up. (vv.12-14)

1. Eleazar was gathered with David to battle the Philistines, but the people fled before the Philistines and left Eleazar without much help. This didn't matter to Eleazar because he knew that the plot of barley was important for food and he defended it with all of his might.
2. Eleazar was left without much help to do what was necessary, yet he stood strong and fought because he knew how important it was to do so. Sometimes we might feel abandoned when a need arises, but like Eleazar we must be willing to stand strong not give up.

D. 3 un-named men risked it all for their king. (vv.15-19)

1. Their leader David cried out that he wished he could have some of water from the well of Bethlehem. Unfortunately, the well was in the middle of a Philistine camp, but this didn't stop the 3 men from risking their lives in order to fulfill the desires of their king. David recognized their bravery and acknowledge the loyalty to him.
2. They were willing to risk it all for David and we must be willing to risk it all for our King Jesus. Sometimes loyalty to Jesus comes with risks, but it is all worth it if it means pleasing our King.

E. Abshai followed his brother's good example. (vv.20,21)

1. The brother of Joab, Abshai looked to his brother and the good that he did and he imitated his strong actions by going up against 300 men and killing them with his spear.
2. Sometimes the mightiest deed is recognizing that someone else has done well and seeking to imitate their example. This takes wisdom, but to accomplish good as others before us is a noble deed.

F. Benaiah cared not for the enemy. (vv.22-25)

1. Benaiah was a strong and valiant warrior of Kabzeel who struck down many different enemies throughout his days of battle. No matter what stood before him, he faced it with ferocity and did not give an inch.
2. There are many different things that we might face in this life that can cause of us stumble in our service to God. But like Benaiah, we must be willing to face anything that might come up against us with his strength and ferocity.

II. Mighty Qualities of These Mighty Men

A. They had courage.

1. These men knew that God was with them in the battles that they were fighting and the author of the text recognized this to be true, as well. **(v.14)**
2. Whether they were the first, the only, or up against unspeakable odds, these men had the courage to fight for the Lord and His causes because they He did for His people and what He was still capable of doing for His people.
3. God had worked many great deeds for his people, and He commanded them to be strong and courageous as they fought for Him. **(Joshua 1:6-10)**
4. They could be courageous and we can be courageous for the Lord because we know what He has done for us and what He will continue to do for us and through us if we are willing to serve Him faithfully. We can be might men and women for God if we will take courage.

B. They had understanding.

1. The mighty men of David and the many others in **I Chronicles 12** understood that making David king of Israel was the will of God, and they played a huge role in helping that come to pass.
2. They understood that this was God's will and they were going to be motivated by such to fulfill God's will. Their courage and understanding helped them to perform these many mighty deeds.
3. With our courage must also come understanding that there are things that God needs for us to be accomplishing as His people. We know that He demands that we share the Gospel with us. He also expects for us to be good servants of others. He demands that we shine as lights in a dark world.
4. If we understand these things and have the courage that God supplies then we can be might servants of God who are doing great things in the Kingdom.

C. They had actions.

1. These men had courage, they had understanding, but these didn't matter if they weren't willing to actually act upon that courage and understanding. Their actions are what gained them recognition in the book of **I Chronicles**, and without them I don't see how we would know anything of them.
2. We must be willing to put all of the pieces together as mighty people of God. We must have the courage to act for the Lord. We must understand that the Lord needs people of action. And then we must actually go about doing the good work that the Lord expects for us to be doing.

D. They were trained.

1. These mighty men and then others that are named in **I Chronicles 12** also were well trained and prepared to do the work that had been set before them to do. Imagine what would have happened if Eleazar, Jashobeam, or any of these other men had tried to accomplish these mighty works without having been trained to accomplish them.
2. **Chapter 12:1,2** talks about the the work that some of the mighty men had put in in order to be able to do a lot of the mighty works. They were trained to handle all sorts of weapons that most people just can't pick up and use without any sort of training. Their work beforehand made their deeds possible.
3. The same is true for us. If we want to be might in deeds then we need to put in some work before hand to be able to accomplish those deeds. All the courage, understanding, and action is useless if we aren't able to accomplish the necessary tasks when they present themselves. They were using bows, arrows, spears, and swords as weapons but we use God's Word to fight our spiritual battles. Paul knew we were at war, and we must put in some work before hand in order to fight the battles when they present themselves. **(Eph. 6:10-17)**

Mighty deeds done by mighty men produce mighty results. David became king firstly because it was God's will but His will was accomplished by mighty men who were willing to take courage, understand there was a need, act, and be prepared and ready for the battles they faced. May we take these good lessons from these mighty men and be ourselves mighty men and women for the Lord as we strive to strengthen and grow the Kingdom of God in the community around us.