

Winning Warriors

2 Samuel 23:8-12 "These are the names of David's mighty men: Josheb-Basshebeth, a Tahkemonite, (Adino the Eznite) was chief of the Three; he raised his spear against eight hundred men, whom he killed in one encounter. 9 Next to him was Eleazar son of Dodai the Ahohite. As one of the three mighty men, he was with David when they taunted the Philistines gathered at Pas Dammim for battle. Then the men of Israel retreated, 10 but he stood his ground and struck down the Philistines till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword. The LORD brought about a great victory that day. The troops returned to Eleazar, but only to strip the dead. 11 Next to him was Shammah son of Agee the Hararite. When the Philistines banded together at a place where there was a field full of lentils, Israel's troops fled from them. 12 But Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field. He defended it and struck the Philistines down, and the LORD brought about a great victory."

Let us consider these three and their qualities...

1. Josheb-Basshebeth (Adino) - the disciple

*2 Samuel 23:8 "These are the names of David's mighty men: **Josheb-Basshebeth, a Tahkemonite**, was chief of the Three; he raised his spear against eight hundred men, whom he killed in one encounter."*

a) Josheb-Basshebeth (Adino the Eznite) slew 800 at one time

Samson slew 100 with a donkeys jawbone – by God's power

Without Him we can do nothing

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.""

Matthew 25:7-9 ""Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 9 ""No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'"

What does this mean?

The 'oil' is not cheap - it costs to continually be filled with the Spirit

What price will we pay for the oil?

b) The Lord gave them a great victory

We need to know that 'the greater one indwells us'

1 John 4:4 "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

Lesson: A disciple is FILLED with the power of God!

2. Eleazar - the disciple

2 Samuel 23:9-10 "Next to him was Eleazar son of Dodai the Ahohite. As one of the three mighty men, he was with David when they taunted the Philistines gathered at Pas Dammim for battle. Then the men of Israel retreated, 10 but he stood (arose Heb Qum) his ground and struck down the Philistines till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword. The LORD brought about a great victory that day. The troops returned to Eleazar, but only to strip the dead."

a) He was willing and available

Not just ability, - but availability – reliability – ‘stick-ability’

Lesson: A disciple is one who is available and willing

b) Everyone else quit the battle

Eleazar stood absolutely alone

c) He arose

Deserted - yet he arose - to fight on alone

d) The Lord honoured his faith

What did his faith look like?

e) The others returned to grab the spoils

They wanted the ‘blessing’ but not the pain...

How does he handle the VICTORY when the deserters turn up?

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "Be joyful always; 17 pray continually; 18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

Lesson: A true disciple rejoices IN ALL THINGS!

3. Shammah - the disciple

2 Samuel 23:11-12 "Next to him was Shammah son of Agee the Hararite. When the Philistines banded together at a place where there was a field full of lentils, Israel's troops fled from them. 12 But Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field. He defended it and struck the Philistines down, and the LORD brought about a great victory."

a) The enemy had formed tight ranks

They had 'banded together'

b) The Israelites were scared

Fear drove them off - he was totally alone - or was he?

c) Shammah stood his ground

He knew the enemy was a liar

John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

d) Shammah defended it

Ephesians 6:10-14 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,"

Lesson: Winners never quit and quitters never win

e) Shammah struck the Philistines down

The enemy plays on our unbelief

He resisted the enemy ... and the enemy fled!

James 4:7 "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Summary

They knew the power of God

They were willing and available

They stood when others ran

These are three 'Winning Warriors'