

## Small but Mighty Part 2 : David and his Mighty Men

Sermon Content

### 1. The Black Sheep

The Black Sheep Squadron (VMF-214) — 1943: Misfits, castoffs, and 'screwups' who became history-makers. In 84 days of combat, they shot down 97 confirmed enemy aircraft and earned more decorations than almost any other squadron in the theater.

God doesn't recruit from the top of the depth chart or the popularity list.

- He does not wait for you to have everything figured out
- He looks at the distressed and discontented and says, 'Those are My people'

### 2. Gideon and the 300

Gideon trusted God's strategy even when it looked like foolishness to every rational mind around him.

- \* God trimmed Gideon's 32,000 soldiers down to 300
- \* Gideon's soldiers were armed only with torches, clay pots and trumpets
- \* Victory came not by military strength, but by trusting God's strategy.

### 3. David's Mighty Men

David hides in the cave of Adullam. Who shows up? The distressed. The in-debt. The discontented. About 400 men with nothing impressive to offer — except themselves.

God does not call the equipped. He equips the called.

- These were not trained warriors — they were people who had hit rock bottom
- David took them in and became their commander
- God transformed them into what Scripture calls David's Mighty Men

### 4. Wait on the Lord: The Cave of Saul

Saul walks into the very cave where David and his men are hiding. David's men say, 'This is your moment!' David cuts off only a corner of Saul's robe — and even that grieves his conscience. He lets Saul walk out alive.

You become like the people you follow. David's men followed someone who followed God, even when it was costly. Even when it didn't make any human sense at all.

- When the solution was right in front of him, David waited on God
- Real faith steps back and says, 'God will handle this in His time'
- David's men followed a leader who trusted God completely — and they became like him

## 5. Faithful People, Extraordinary God

Two Mighty Men worth knowing by name:

Eleazar represents perseverance.

Benaiah represents courage.

- The whole army retreated. Eleazar stayed and fought until his hand froze to the sword.
- Are you in a season where everything says 'let go'? Don't drop the sword.
- 'The Lord brought about a great victory that day' — not Eleazar's strength. God's.
- Benaiah went down into a pit on a snowy day and killed a lion.
- What lion are you avoiding? What step of faith keeps getting delayed?
- The Holy Spirit says: get in the pit. I will be right there with you.

## 6. God Wants to Use You: How to Apply This in Your Life

Every person in this series: Gideon's 300, David's cave crew, Eleazar, Benaiah, all had one thing in common: willingness. Not credentials. Not qualifications. Just a willingness to show up and faith in God.

Because when you know you can't do it on your own, you stop trusting in your own strength and you start trusting in His.

- You are not disqualified by your past or your failures
- You are not too distressed, too in debt, or too discontented to be used by God
- Those very things may be what position you for what God wants to do next

## 7. Hunger and Thirst

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

*A personal declaration*

I hunger and thirst for righteousness.

I am available to God.

I am willing to be used by Him, not when I have it all figured out, but right now, as I am.

I trust that He will provide the victory His way.

And I believe that He will fill me with everything I need.

Discussion Questions

*For personal reflection or group discussion*

1. Where do you see yourself in the cave of Adullam — distressed, in debt, or discontented? How does it change your perspective to know that is exactly where God does His best work?

**2.** David had the chance to solve his problem with Saul on his own terms and chose to wait on God instead. Is there an area of your life right now where you are tempted to 'take the shot' rather than trust God's timing?

**3.** Eleazar represents perseverance — gripping the sword even when everything says let go. What is the 'sword' in your life that you are most tempted to drop right now?

**4.** Benaiah chased a lion into a pit on a snowy day. What is the lion in the pit that fear has been keeping you from pursuing? What would it look like to take that step of faith this week?

**5.** The Mighty Men became extraordinary by following a leader who followed God. Who are you following, and who is following you? How does that shape the kind of person you are becoming?

## Key Takeaways

### *Main points to remember and apply*

- 1.** God does not call the equipped — He equips the called. Willingness is what He works with.
- 2.** The cave of Adullam was not a holding pen. It was a training ground. Your hardest seasons are often your most formative ones.
- 3.** Eleazar's perseverance and Benaiah's courage both point to the same truth: the victory belongs to God, not to our own strength or strategy.
- 4.** Trusting God with the outcome — even when the solution is right in front of you — is one of the most powerful acts of faith you can demonstrate.

5. You are not disqualified by your past. In fact, your brokenness may be exactly what positions you for what God wants to do next.

#### Additional Notes

- Series: Small but Mighty Part 2 of an ongoing series on how God uses unlikely people for extraordinary purposes.
- Next Week: Reverend David Shivers will be preaching on Father's Day!
- On June 28<sup>th</sup> Pastor Doug will finish out the series with Small but Mighty Part 3: Jesus and His Disciples
- Personal Challenge This Week: Identify one area where you need to embody either Eleazar's perseverance (don't let go of the sword) or Benaiah's courage (get in the pit). Share it with someone who will pray with you and hold you accountable.