

## TEAM WORK: David's Mighty Men

*"These are the names of David's mightiest warriors..."*  
2 Samuel 15:4-6 NLT



David was an impressive King and military leader. People often said, *"Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousand!"* (1 Sam. 18:7; 21:11; 29:5 NLT). However, there is more to the story. David surrounded himself with two elite groups of men: "the Thirty" and "the Three" (2 Samuel 23:18, 23; 1 Chronicles 11:11-25). The members of these two groups were men who had demonstrated exceptional courage and wisdom in battle. The most elite group was "the Three." The next level was "the Thirty," which actually contained 37 names (23:39) because it included some warriors who were dead, such as Uriah (23:39; 11:14-17).

One crucial aspect of David's success was this team of exceptional men supporting him and serving at his side. David was not a lone ranger. He had a capable and dedicated team.

The story of David's mighty men teaches us as Christians serving Christ through a local church or any ministry the importance of teamwork. We can do more together than we can alone.

### Central Lesson

**Team Work: We Can Do More Together Than We Can Alone.**

1. **David's mighty men developed great **SKILLS** to serve God and Israel (23:8).** We should be life-long learners always seeking to grow and develop ourselves for God's glory.

*"These are the names of David's mightiest warriors. The first was Jashobeam [jas-ho-beam] the Hacmonite [hac-mo-nite], who was leader of the Three—the three mightiest warriors among David's men. He once used his spear to kill 800 enemy warriors in a single battle" (23:8).*

2. **David's mighty men were **EMPOWERED** by God's strength and favor - (v. 10, 12).** We must ask and trust God to work through us.

*"9 Next in rank among the Three was Eleazar [el-e-a-zer] son of Dodai [do-day], a descendant of Ahoah [a-ho-ah]. Once Eleazar and David stood together against the Philistines when the entire Israelite army had fled. 10 He killed Philistines until his hand was too tired to lift his sword, and the Lord gave him a great victory that day. The rest of the army did not return until it was time to collect the plunder!"*

*"12 but Shammah [sham-mah] held his ground in the middle of the field and beat back the Philistines. So the Lord brought about a great victory."*

David's mighty men were skilled, yet God was working through them. They did not win on their skills alone. We must develop ourselves the best we can, but ultimately, we must trust God to work through us.

3. **David's mighty men showed unwavering **DETERMINATION** (vs. 9b-10).** We must not be fearful but courageous and determined.

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The battles were so fierce that the armies of Israel ran away, but David's mighty men stood their ground and fought courageously, and God gave them victory. Teamwork for Christ requires God's people to show unwavering determination.

4. **David's mighty men were highly **DEVOTED** to David as their leader (vs. 14-17).** We must support & work along side our leaders.

*"15 David remarked longingly to his men, 'Oh, how I would love some of that good water from the well by the gate in Bethlehem.' 16 So the Three broke through the Philistine lines, drew some water from the well by the gate in Bethlehem, and brought it back to David. But he refused to drink it. Instead, he poured it out as an offering to the Lord. 17 'The Lord forbid that I should drink this!' he exclaimed. 'This water is as precious as the blood of these men who risked their lives to bring it to me.' So David did not drink it. These are examples of the exploits of the Three."*

David's men were so devoted to him that they risked their lives just to get a cup of water from a well in Jerusalem, which the Philistines occupied. However, he could not drink the water when he realized it represented the lives of his devoted men. In the same way, teamwork in advancing the gospel of Christ requires exceptional devotion to Christ, the Great Commission, the local church, and the local church's leadership.

5. **David's mighty men show that fame **FADES** but what is done for God endures forever (23:22-23).** We should seek to accomplish what endures for eternity.

*"22 Deeds like these made Benaiah [be-ne-ya] as famous as the Three mightiest warriors. 23 He was more honored than the other members of the Thirty, though he was not one of the Three. And David made him captain of his bodyguard."*

David's men were heroes in their time, but their fame faded in history. However, they will be honored in heaven for their faithfulness and devotion to God, to Israel, and their King, David. Likewise, each of us may be unknown in this world, but God will honor everyone who faithfully lived and served Him (2 Timothy 4:8; James 1:12; 1 Peter 5:4; Revelation 2:10)

### Central Lesson

**Team Work: We Can Do More Together Than We Can Alone.**

► Accept Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ► Attend a small group. ► Read the Bible & journal meaningful verses. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.