

## “Giant Killer begets Giant Killers!”

### I. Announce:

- A. Children At Risk Mtg: Please join us today 3pm, as a representative from IJM's (Int. Justice Mission) Calif Advocacy team, Dawn Carter explains about important anti-trafficking legislation (the Trafficking Victims Protection Act) and how we can make our voices heard.

### II. Intro:

- A. Last week: “Love Ignites Love”; This week: “Giant Killer begets Giant Killers!”
- B. Lessons from famous soldiers:
1. A general is just as good or just as bad as the troops under his command make him. Douglas MacArthur
  2. We are not retreating - we are advancing in another direction. Douglas MacArthur
  3. I don't measure a man's success by how high he climbs but how high he bounces when he hits bottom. George Patton
  4. A good plan violently executed now is better than a perfect plan executed next week. George Patton
  5. A pint of sweat, saves a gallon of blood. George Patton
  6. Accept the challenges so that you can feel the exhilaration of victory. George Patton
- C. Lets listen in today for another soldier(David) & the lessons he left us with. [Read 15-22]
- D. David was engaged in a battle with the Philistines.
1. This battle took place when David was ***past the prime*** of his life(65-70); **and** in the battle...the old warrior grew weary.
  2. ***David's enemy*** sensed the king's vulnerability, and filled with confidence, he presses his advantage.
  3. Furious and unrelenting in his assault, David was on the **defensive**, and only able to block one blow after another.
  4. David could not hold out much longer; he was about to die, but then **Abishai** came to his rescue.
    - a) God's man is rescued, and we learn some valuable lessons from the old soldier.

### III. LESSON #1

- A. WE DO NOT LOSE OUR VALUE BY LOSING AN ABILITY! (17b)<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Some Notes taken from Ron Parker, Lessons from an old soldier.

- B. We may not always be able to serve the Lord in the same way we do now **or** the way we used to
1. It may be a source of **frustration** and **grief**, to lose abilities we once had.
  2. **Our health** will not always allow us to do what we so desperately want to do.
- C. (17b) David's men said that he could **no longer go into battle with them**.
1. Here was a man who **still had the fight in him**, **but** who could no longer **be in the fight**.
  2. Was it a sign that he had **lost his value**, or that he could no longer be *a contributing member of his nation*?
  3. The very reason his men insisted that he not return to battle **was his value** [**lest you quench the light of Israel**]
  4. His **very presence** was such a force among God's people, that it was too precious to lose.
  5. It is wrong to measure our **usefulness** by only the **external measures of activity**.

#### IV. **LESSON #2** (15,18,19,20)

##### A. **WE SHOULD EXPECT CONSTANT ATTACK FROM THE ENEMY!**

- B. Just like Israel and the Philistines; we know that there will always be **another spiritual battle to be fought**.
1. There is **no point** in **Christian maturity** that marks the end of the conflict.
    - a) David battling giants till the very end.
  2. **Battle is part of our Christian life**.
- C. **God likes to arrange such odds in life**: [A David against Goliath; Moses against Pharaoh; Gideon against Midiantes; Elijah against prophets]
1. **Why?** Causes us to be **dependent** on Him. When we are weak, He is **strong**. And, it brings Him the **most glory**.

##### D. There is no blessing without a battle.

1. God uses the battle in our life to teach us **stability** and **faithfulness**, along with other things.
2. We should **thank God** for the battles in our life, **rather** than complain about them.
3. **As long as we are a threat to the devil, he will be attacking**.

#### V. **LESSON #3**

- A. **THE ENEMY ATTACKS US WHEN & WHERE WE ARE WEAK!** (15,16)
- B. **When did the giant move in for the kill?** When David grew faint.

- C. **Example:** An important part of football is “*Scouting*”. A person who watches games, video tapes, take notes & analyzes all the tendencies of a players such as, how wide receivers get off the ball, & how quarterbacks break from the huddle. **Why?** So you can find the **weaknesses and strengths** of the opposing team/players.
1. We can be sure that the devil has a "scout book" on you.
  2. He knows when we are growing faint, where we are vulnerable, and to what we are susceptible.
  3. None of us have the luxury of an unguarded moment, or an area without growth.

## VI. LESSON #4

- A. **WATCH OUT FOR AN OLD ENEMY W/A NEW WEAPON!** (16)
- B. Notice what we can know about Giants: **Big!** Goliath over 9 feet tall; **Strong!** Emphasizes weight of armaments; **Well equipped!** new sword, idea of cutting edge technology; **Well trained & Defiant against God!**
- C. He girded him w/a new sword -
- D. New swords work!
1. Ask Iraq; smart bombs and high-tech weaponry caused them to surrender in droves
  2. An ancient Chinese general wrote, "When I have won a victory I do not repeat my tactics, but respond to circumstances in an infinite variety of ways."
- E. The devil is no less smart.
1. While the **temptations** are the same, the labels and packaging are changed *all the time*.

## VII. LESSON #5

- A. **WE NEED THE HELP OF OTHERS IN THE BATTLE!** (17)
- B. We would do well to learn, that *spiritual warfare* is just too heavy a burden to carry alone.
1. Eccl.4:9,10 **Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his companion: but woe to him that is alone when he falls; for he has no one to help him up.**
- C. Even **David** needed the aid of **Abishai**.
- D. **Paul** described **Epaphroditus** as, **my brother, & companion in labour, & fellow soldier** Phil 2:25
1. **David** didn't fight alone, and **Paul** didn't fight alone, and neither should **we**.
  2. If our situation is **not** like that of David, **then** we should be like **Abishai**, and looking out for those who are!
- E. What is in your life today that God wants to **slay**?

1. We all have giants of one form or another to **overcome**, and giants that we need to **band together** to overcome!

## VIII. LESSON #6

- A. **WE SHOULD DEVELOP THE POWER OF A GODLY INFLUENCE!** (18-21)
- B. Until David showed up on the scene to bring some food to his brothers, no one dared to take on Goliath. **But** years later, after David was a veteran soldier, *Scripture records several giant killers following his footsteps.*
  1. Sometimes all it takes to move others to the next level is “*an inspiring example of someone who does something no one ever thought of trying to do.*”
- C. **In this passage**, we see 3 more servants of David, who were named as “*Giant Killers!*”
  1. We live in a time when **giants** roam the earth, killers who devour God's people.
  2. **Spiritual giants**, but giants nevertheless, and giants which must be slain
  3. **Sibbechai, Elhanon, and Jonathon** were giant killers, and all 3 were under the influence of that man of God, who pioneered **Giant Killing!**
- D. It seems that those who were around David **caught** what he had. [caught not taught]
  1. Saul rarely went to battle with his men. He stayed in the tent in the rear and commanded men to lay down their lives. This kind of leader doesn't inspire valor in his men.
  2. These men grew up hearing about the **victories** of David, and aspired to victories of their own.
  3. These looked up to David, and wanted to be like him.
  4. There is nothing wrong with having **heroes**, but they need to be the **right heroes**.
- E. (22) **Is a summarization of what happened.**
  1. We should notice that it says **they fell by the hand of David and his servants.**
    - a) **Why** does it say that they fell by the hand of David, when he did not kill any of them.
  2. David had **raised up** and **influenced** a generation of giant killers; their victory was his victory!
  3. The giant killer had begotten giant killers. **Giant Killers beget Giant Killers!**
    - a) If a certain **genetic** strain produces gigantism, what **spiritual genetics** are needed to produce spiritual giant killers?
    - b) **It takes being a giant killer to make one.** Valor begets valor. Faith begets faith.
    - c) **Read** Ps.71:7-9; 17,18
  4. **May God enable us to do the same.**

- F. **Chapter 23** chronicles all the mighty men that followed after David. **To have a legacy of 37 valiant men who follow your example is incredibly awesome!** Though they were not known for being giant killers, we'll read in a few weeks what mighty exploits they each did to gain their name of fame?
- G. **Conclusion:** This world will be won for Jesus Christ one neighborhood at a time when we follow the footsteps of those who have **inspired us** and we in turn **inspire others** to walk boldly for Christ.
1. **One *back hills country preacher* in a small community in South Carolina preached faithfully every Sunday for years and wondered if he would have any affect on those who listened. He died without knowing that one of the young boys listening each week in that little country church was one of the greatest evangelists of all time... Billy Graham.**
  2. **And *you*, soldier of Jesus Christ...Who will take up the sword after you? Who will fill your shoes?**