

Interlude in Psalms—2 Samuel 23 Sunday 12/03/2023

I. Review

Last week we were in Psalms chapter 3, and we have been talking about how the Psalms will fit into the tough times that we go through in life. It's typified by David going through the struggles that he went through as he sat on the throne of Israel and tries to govern God's people the way that God wanted it to be done. We also talked about the opposition God's man or woman will face when they decide to take their stand for the Lord and for the word of God.

I showed you in Jeremiah 23:25 where Christianity for so many people is just a dream world; it isn't even real. They don't even understand what the issues are and get caught up in everything; consequently, being a child of God in these last days brings challenges. Most of God's people are not prepared for it. It comes down to us, as God's people, taking our stand and paying whatever price must be paid to do that. Romans 12:1-2 makes it clear that we are to be a living sacrifice, and everything that we do is to show the Lord, and all that he does for us, to people—understanding also that when you stand for the word of God that not only the world, but the majority of Christianity, will hate you for it.

A.) The Prophets were Hated for their Message.

One of the best examples is the prophets in the Old Testament. They were men that God sent to the nation of Israel. The Bible is very clear that when God established the nation of Israel, He had a plan for them. They deviated from that plan and got into a real mess which would lead to them going into captivity. What God did when they started to stray was send them prophets. **The prophets were men who were sent by God to His people in the midst of their apostasy and their rejecting God and His word. It was a tough job. They were preaching the truth to the nation of Israel—telling them how far they were from what God wanted and telling them to get back. They were hated for their message.** Many times, it was one guy preaching to the whole nation of Israel. Hebrews 11:34-39 really shows us the attitude that God's people had toward the men whom God sent with the message of getting out of their apostasy.

*Hebrews 11: 34-39. Talking about the prophets, that they...**Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: 36. And others had trial of [cruel] mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: 37. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented** (And what was their crime? **What did they do to have this terrible tragedy unleashed on them? They simply preached the truth of the word of God to God's people that didn't want to hear it): 38. (Of whom the world was not worthy:)** they wandered in deserts, and [in] mountains, and [in] dens and caves of the earth. 39. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:*

Now when you go over to places like in Matthew 21:34-36, he really lays out the whole Old Testament history of Israel in one story.

Matthew 21:34-36. And when the time of the fruit drew near (that is time for Israel to bear the fruit God wanted them to bear; they didn't do it), he sent his servants (the prophets—telling Israel they were out of line and a long way from God—having a form of godliness but no power in it) to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. 35. And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another (they beat, killed, and stoned the prophets). 36. Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.

And today, the hatred is just as intense, but it's not a physical thing—nobody is going to (hopefully) saw you in half or physically kill or torture you. **It's psychological; it's mental.** It's verbal slander and media attacks. **It's assassination of a person's character, lying about them, emotional abuse, public attacks...against anybody that holds the truth.**

Last week I showed you in 20th century church history a few men that preached the truth and changed the course of this country but were hated, not only by the world, but also by many that call themselves Christians.

- **Billy Sunday** was probably the greatest evangelist of the 20th century. When he died, over a million people filed by his casket. A New York Times reporter recorded that almost everybody that passed made comments like *I'd be in hell if it wasn't for that man's preaching. That man saved my marriage. He saved my family. He got me out of the alcohol that I was in.*
- **J. Frank Norris** (The Texas Tornado) and how he really established what we have and believe today.
- **Peter S. Ruckman** and why the King James Bible is the absolute perfect word of God.

B.) In a Spiritual Sense, our Church is the grandchild of the great J Frank Norris

I told you about the book that we have in the bookstore from my home church in Canton, Ohio where I was sent out from—Canton Baptist Temple. It's a book about my pastor **Harold Henniger**. The book gives so much insight into what God was doing back then with men that were really going to take their stand with the word of God.

Harold Henniger got saved in Dallas Billington's church, which was the Akron Baptist Temple—a church of 10,000 people that took a stand for the word of God. After he got saved, he felt the call to preach, and Billington said he needed to go down and hook up with J. Frank Norris and his Bible school in Texas. So, Henniger went down there, and J. Frank Norris was teaching these guys the word of God. **One of the things that struck me is that fact that the same things J. Frank Norris was teaching his young preacher boys is the exact same thing I teach you.** Henniger got trained there and started the Canton Baptist Temple, and I went there and got trained and sent to Kansas City which makes this church, in a spiritual sense, a grandchild of the great J. Frank Norris which I think is a real badge of honor—to know our roots go back to a man who really took a stand.

I gave you eight areas out of Psalms 3 that will be the source of comfort and strength to anyone who wants to hold the line.

1. My shield: God being our shield
2. My glory: the Judgment Seat of Christ
3. Lifter up of mine head: He lifts up our head in the tough times and we look for our redemption
4. Our prayer and God always hearing us; never leaving or forsaking us
5. The great concept of God sustaining us through everything in life
6. The fact that in all the opposition which we face, not to be afraid of ten thousand that are against what God has called us to do
7. Keeping your focus on the rapture of the church
8. God's salvation and God's blessing

These are what God provides for the child of God who decides that they're going to be and do what God wants them to do. When you get into the warfare of the believer, these things are going to sustain you.

Like the Marines, God is looking for a few good men. Last week I showed you in Ezekiel 22:30 what God is looking for. We talked about the key quality to look for in a man or woman today, who is going to take their stand, and building good solid leaders. **Sometimes we get so focused on being a leader in churches or in groups that we fail to understand that real leadership doesn't start in a church. Real Biblical leadership starts with your leadership at home.** You as the leader of your family giving them what they need, and as God moves you up the ladder, you learn to lead in other areas.

Today we are the rear-guard action—sacrificing ourselves so others may get the truth. We try to build structure and discipline. We try to get you to follow and understand that God has a chain of command to get you to become an expert with the Bible which is your weapon—*the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God* (Ephesians 6:17). And in the last moments of these last days, looking at the world around you to try to get God's men and women to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ to fight the good fight.

C.) Like Burger King: *Have it your way*: Answers to Your Questions

And you'll remember last week, I made the reference to 2 Samuel 23—David's mighty men of valor. I told you it was my favorite chapter in the Bible, and I told you this is the record of the men God gave David to fight the battles Israel fought. They were the key leaders in Israel's army and the key men in David's life. **I never really got into it, but I alluded to the fact that this chapter will be a picture of what you and I will face every day in the warfare of the believer.** Because what these guys were up against are the same things which we are up against. In verse 11, they were up against the Philistines, in verse 21, they were up against Egyptians, and in verse 20 they were up against Moab. All those nations back then were the enemies that were trying to stop and destroy the nation of Israel.

I told you there were four key character qualities found in this chapter. These will be what sets Christians apart from the mainstream of Christianity. You find these qualities in men all down through church history. I must have had 20 requests last week from people all over the website, emails, phone calls, and texts who would like me to lay out those four character qualities, and I am always attentive to what you want. We're kinda like Burger King; you can have it your way here. **I want to give you what you're looking for, so I decided to add this message as an "add-on" to Psalms 3:1-8, to give you not only the opposition and show what God will do through that (which we did last week), but I want to show you those four character qualities.**

II. A Little Interlude in Psalms—2 Samuel 23

In the days and the times that we live in, we have lost the last four or five generations. All you have to do is look at the world scenario—crime in every major city and young people's attitudes toward everything that's going on today. If you wear the wrong jersey to a football game, you could wind up being killed. This is the world we live in. This is what we face every day of our lives. This world is an insane asylum run by the inmates. Look what happens when a conservative judge comes to speak to a law school. They will boo him off the stage because they don't agree with what he says even though colleges are supposed to be places of free speech. And it absolutely has turned everything away from God.

A.) Manna—the Supernatural Food from God

Having said that, I know that not all of God's people will put these four areas in their life. And that's okay. **I remember reading in Exodus 16:17 when God brought the manna down to the children of Israel, which is a picture of the word of God, He brought it as a supernatural food to His people who were in the wilderness of Sin where there was nothing for them to eat just like in the world we live in where there's nothing real for us, He gave us the supernatural word of God.** And yet the Bible says that every night while they slept the manna came down, and when they got up in the morning, they went out to gather it. **And the Bible simply says that some gathered more and some gathered less. That's what Christians will do.** I'm okay with that. That's totally between you and God. **Every man and woman that is saved will have to decide for themselves how far you're going to go with God and how much you want from Him, and honestly, how much will you give Him of yourself.** I will be there for you and help you no matter what, but at the end of the day, it's your choice. I would never try to force you to be what the Bible says we ought to be. With the way it is in the world today, and even in Christianity, there is still a remnant out there of men and women who want to go all the way with the Lord Jesus Christ. My job is to give you the tools that you can be all you can be for Him. So, take what you want. I understand that not everybody is going to do this, but I also understand that everybody could do this; however, it comes down to our decision.

Now in this chapter, to save some time today, I'm going to reference just four passages out of here. **And in these four passages, I want to show you the four key elements of a soldier for the Lord Jesus Christ based on David's mighty men of valor that are found in this chapter.**

B.) Two Kinds of People in Christianity

I showed you last week in 2 Kings 6 where you find Elisha and the young man. They were surrounded by the Syrians, and it looked like they were going to be trapped and wiped out. The young man, which typifies so many of God's people today, looked at the circumstances and all he could see was the physical circumstances. He asked Elisha what they were going to do, and Elisha said God would take care of them. The point is this, you had one man who could see what God was doing, you had one man who could see the opposition around to stop him, and yet he could see the innumerable millions of angelic hosts which were surrounding the surrounders. There are two kinds of people in Christianity—those like the little kid who can't ever see God doing anything, but only what they want to see, and then you have the man or woman who sees it from God's standpoint. And that's the way it's going to be today. You get to decide which one you are—the Elisha or the young man who only sees the natural circumstances.

III. The Four Key Character Qualities of David's Mighty Men of Valor Found in 2 Samuel 23

2 Samuel 23: 1 Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man [who was] raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel

This verse has always been special to me. It says that this is the last thing David said and was thinking about, and it was the men who had fought with him in the great battles by being by his side. Many of you are veterans and some of you served in combat; and there is a bond that comes between men who served in combat together. They will not see each other for 20 or 30 years then go to a reunion, and it's like they just picked up with them yesterday. There's a bond that builds when you go through some really tough times when people are trying to kill you, when the bombs, rockets, and artillery are coming down on you, when you're in a foxhole and want to run but can't because you've got a guy on either side of you....that builds a bond. That same bond will be built between God's people when you are truly in the warfare together as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

In the Bible, you're going to find that there are two kinds of leaders:

1. David—Who builds men
2. Saul—Who doesn't build anybody

David's mighty men were standing in line because of his example; they saw in him what a real leader should be. David's men followed him because they loved him. Saul had to force his mighty men of valor. In I Samuel 13, Saul picked his mighty men, and they didn't have a say in it. He had to conscript his men to follow him.

A.) The First Rule of Leadership—Lead by Example

David follows the first rule of leadership; he leads by example. **David has many enemies, but his mighty men of valor saw in him the greatest quality of leadership you can ever have—to lead by example.** He leads from the front; he's not in the rear with the gear.

I think of Hal Moore who is a great example of leadership in battle. He said to his men, "My boots will be the first ones on the battlefield and the last ones off." He led by example. He refused to leave his men even when his general ordered him off the battlefield. If you have a trained eye, you will find four or five of the greatest qualities that I'm talking about today in his leadership ability.

Now the second thing I see here is the fact that not all these mighty men are Jews. Most of them, as you read the account, are gentiles who have converted to Old Testament Judaism which makes a perfect picture for us today of you and me as Gentiles converting to Christianity and being trained to fight in the battle and build these four character qualities in your life.

B.) Self-Discipline is the Backbone of Christianity

The real key to all of this will be just one thing, and it's the word self-discipline. **In Christianity as in life, there is no greater quality in a person's life than personal self-discipline.** Some people get incredibly lazy, lethargic, procrastinate...they never have any real desire to get past the couch. **When you have self-discipline, and you put it into everything in your life, it will make you skillful in the word of God.**

Hebrews 5: 12-14. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers (he hits us right between the eyes—saved 10, 15, 20 years?), ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat (there is the problem). 13. For every one that useth milk [is] unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, [even] those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

I'm telling you; when you have the self-discipline to do what you need to do, even when you feel like you don't want to do it, God will build these areas of character in your life.

- When a worldly man or nominal Christian is skillful, he'll boast about how great he is. When a true child of God is skillful, he'll build and teach others.
- When a worldly Christian man is strong, he'll use that strength to attack the work of others. Where the true Christian is strong, he will protect the work of others.
- The worldly man criticizes others to make himself look good. The true child of God, who is skillful, will always make others look good and be his own worst critic to keep himself accountable.
- The worldly Christian sees himself—just like Saul. The skillful Christian sees others—just like David.

- The worldly man or Christian will make many mistakes over and over again which is why he can't build anything in his life. The skillful Christian will still make his mistakes but will learn from them, so he doesn't continue to make them.

We have a program here we call Discipleship. That is a word that gets used so much that nobody even thinks about what it means anymore, but **do you know what the word discipleship comes from? It comes from the word discipline.** When you study medicine or philosophy in college, you might get asked which discipline you're going to study because **the word discipline means a specific course of study that you're going to discipline yourself to.**

Years ago, I had a friend who was a new doctor, and I needed a delicate operation in the doctor's office. He told me that he had never done it before, but if I would hold the book for him, he thought he could do it. That's not what I'm looking for! (although he turned out to be a great doctor).

Discipline means the basic structure of life—that you get up and go to work in the morning, that you remember to take your medicine, that you take the dogs out, clean the house, make the bed, do the dishes...it's discipline.

IV. The Four Principles

Leadership starts right in the family, and that's where these four principles start, so let's look at them. We're going to break this down into four sections.

2 Samuel 23: 8-12. These be the names of the mighty men whom David had: The Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same was Adino the Eznite: [he lift up his spear] against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time. 9. And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, [one] of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines [that] were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away: 10. He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword: and the LORD wrought a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to spoil. 11. And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines. 12. But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the LORD wrought a great victory.

1. Determination

Now the first quality I want to talk to you about, you will find displayed in these three men. All these men are incredible guys to study, and they all have self-discipline. But the first thing I want to show you is their determination.

- *the same [was] Adino the Eznite: [he lift up his spear] against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time.*

Verse 8 says that Adino the Eznite slew 800 men at one time. Most Bible colleges and scholars will tell you that's probably a scribal error—that it was 8 or maybe 80—but the idea of one man taking on 800 guys, come on; are you kidding me. No, I'm not; he did—and he slew all 800 of them.

Determination will always be connected with the man's spirit. With a human spirit, he'll climb Mount Everest, he'll play pro-football for 25 years, he'll do great things. That's the human spirit, and that's determination. But when you have God's Spirit, your determination is—yes, you're always greatly outnumbered, and sometimes it will be 800 to 1, but you'll prevail.

- *And after him [was] **Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite**, [one] of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines [that] were there gathered together to battle, **and the men of Israel were gone away:***

Verse 9 talks about Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, and **he was left all by himself**. I'm going to tell you something, folks. It's easy to be a Christian when you've got all your friends around, but I'm going to tell you right now, someday if you try to take your stand, everybody is going to leave you, and you're going to have to stand by yourself. It's just that simple.

- ***He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword:** and the LORD wrought a great victory*

Israel left him, and there he was, and yet the Bible says in verse 10 that he arose. I like that. When the tough times come, you either rise to the occasion or you'll leave with the rest of the nation of Israel.

The sword is a type of the word of God. He fights them off in such a fury that he's just cutting them to pieces, and the muscles in his hand cramp up, so that after the battle, he can't take his hand off the sword. **That's a picture of the word of God becoming one with your hand and your life to fight the battle that God wants you to fight.** For every one of us, the extension of our hand ought to be the word of God—the sword that God gave us.

- *And after him [was] **Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite**. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was **a piece of ground full of lentiles:** and the people fled from the Philistines. **But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it,***

Now this is a great lesson for all of us. It shows me here that **every battle is important**. We often view battles based on their intensity, the glory that goes along with it, and the spectacular press coverage it gets. I learned here that every battle is important, not just the spectacular ones. **Here again, he's by himself, and he fights and defends a field that has lentils in it—that's a bean field! You see, we don't get to choose the battles that we want to fight, we just fight every battle the same way because to God the battles that are major battles like Jericho or Ai are just as important as the battles in the beanfield.** You see, we don't get to choose. We fight with the same determination in everything that we do. **It's the level of a man or woman's passion and determination for God.**

2. Loyalty

*2 Samuel 23: 14-16. And David [was] then in an hold, and the garrison of the Philistines [was] then [in] Bethlehem. 15. And David longed, and said, **Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which [is] by the gate!** 16. **And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that [was] by the gate, and took [it], and brought [it] to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD.***

I think loyalty is the greatest asset a person can have. Loyalty to me is everything, and yet when you look at the word loyalty, or being loyal, there are three areas that come into play:

- ✓ Loyal to the word of God
- ✓ Loyal to the program/structure of God; the chain of command God puts into our life
- ✓ Loyalty to each other

We're family. Does not every family have squabbles? Sure, they do. Some of you have family that don't like the fact you're a Christian, and every time you get together, they like to nitpick on something. It's true in Christianity, and between God's people, it will only give place to the devil. There's coming a day when you may have to put your life into that man or woman's hands, or they may have to put their life into yours. Fight the enemy, not each other. There must be a bond. Loyalty is paramount.

I know soldiers. I know the loyalty they have to each other, and when they get a good company commander, they'll do anything for him because they know he's loyal to them.

A.) "Bob's Version" of the Loyalty of David's Mighty Men and the Water in the Well at Bethlehem

Let me set the scene. Bethlehem is down the hill about 800 yards. By the gate is the well, and David and his mighty men are up on a little rise in the hill. They're in a trench, and they're all lined up there waiting for the Philistines to do something. Old David comes out there, probably 11 o'clock or so at night. He walks out to check the guard roster and check to see how the guys are doing. He leans over the parapet, and he sees old Bethlehem and the well. He sees the Philistines walking up and down in God's city, and he just says to himself how he'd sure like a drink of water out of that well in Bethlehem. Bethlehem...the house of bread.

"All right boys, have a good night. Check the guard roster before you check in. I'm going to hit the sack; we've got a big day tomorrow." He goes into his hootch. Four or five of the mighty men are sitting there, and they love David. They ask, "Are you thinking what I'm thinking? Let's go get David some water out of that well. They're just Philistines; we've got God on our side. We'll get the water—we've just got to work together." So they get over there, and it's pitch black. They get out their Uzis and screw their suppressors on. One guy peeks over the top; there's a big old Philistine walking back and forth guarding that thing. He's got a spear and an AK-47 on his back. They leap over the wall, put a knife to his neck, throw him down, and the

other guys are over the wall. Two guys are on the port perimeter, and they're putting the bucket down in the well. They get the water and start bringing the bucket up and start putting it into their canteens. About that time, around the corner, come three Philistines to relieve the guard. Flares start going off, machine gun tracers start flying. Everybody on the Israeli side is up and alert now, and everybody down on the Philistine side is after them. They climb over the wall, and they're out of breath. They're holding the canteen, and there's the C.O., David. And he ain't happy. He asks what's going on. They get a sheepish grin, take the canteen, and say that they heard what he said about the water. "We love you, David. We went down and got this water out of that well for you".

He recognized their loyalty to him, but he said he couldn't drink it because men put their lives in jeopardy for him to have it. You know what David did? Double loyalty. He said he appreciated what they did, but he said they should give it to God. Loyalty is paramount. It's just that simple. That's one of my favorite stories in all the Bible.

3. Courage

*2 Samuel 23: 20-21. And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man, of Kabzeel, who had done many acts, **he slew two lionlike men of Moab: he went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in time of snow: 21, And he slew an Egyptian, a goodly man: and the Egyptian had a spear in his hand; but he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear.***

Wow! This guy is something. First, he kills two lionlike men of Moab. You see, courage is not being afraid. **Courage is having the determination and loyalty to your cause that overcomes your fear. Courage is doing what's right when emotionally you don't want to do it.** This must have been a big Egyptian—a *goodly man*. And he takes the guy's spear out of his hand and kills him with his own spear. Now who doesn't like Sylvester Stallone, Chuck Norris, Van Damme, or Steven Seagal?

You know, **every child of God should be able to do that with the Bible to your enemies.** Courage is defined for you in the book of Joshua chapter 1. Before Israel ever went into the land, he told them that courage was going to be three things.

- ✓ Courage to believe the word of God (Joshua 1:6)
- ✓ Courage to obey the word of God (Joshua 1:7)
- ✓ Courage to rest in the word of God (Joshua 1:9)

Who taught these guys how to fight? Where do I learn to fight? It's by the example of the men God put in my life.

Psalms 18:32-34. It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect. 33. He maketh my feet like hinds' [feet], and setteth me upon my high places. 34. He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.

Psalms 144:1. Blessed be the LORD my strength which teacheth my hands to war, [and] my fingers to fight:

Both of those are Psalms of David. Oh! The sweet Psalmist of Israel could train and teach you how to take on 800 -to-1 or fight for a beanfield. **It's not the size of the dog in the fight but the size of the fight in the dog.** That's David. Leaders always lead by example.

4. Having Honor (Honorable)

This one is the glue that will hold the first three together. You look through men in church as well as secular history that have determination, loyalty, and courage; however, honor is the missing element today.

2 Samuel 23: 18-19. And Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was chief among three. And he lifted up his spear against three hundred, [and] slew [them], and had the name among three. 19. Was he not most honourable of three? therefore he was their captain: howbeit he attained not unto the [first] three.

Without a doubt, the missing ingredient today in Christianity, as well as America, is that God's people have no honor. **Honor simply means an adherence to that which is right and having an absolute standard (for us: the word of God) that you go by and never deviate from.** Honesty and honor are about being open and honest. It's about looking at somebody, and what you see is what you get. No deceit involved, no guile, no behind closed doors conspiracy, no Absalom syndrome (he too had no honor). **Having honor as a child of God is doing what's right based on the truth of the word of God and giving your word to something and keeping your word.**

There was a time, probably 120 years ago, that if you were a Baptist and were in good standing in your church, you could go to the bank and ask for a \$500 loan, and when asked about collateral, if you said you were a member of the Baptist church in town, you got the loan. Try that today. Christians have no honor. They will lie to you. They will look you right in the face, put God's name into it, call you brother, say something, then do something else. Why? No honor.

All my life, I've seen the big-time preachers who were the leaders of Christianity. I've seen them play the game, and work and conspire behind the scenes to gain what they wanted. They had no honor. I've watched them manipulate people and circumstances and tell people what they wanted to hear instead of what they needed to hear because they're afraid to preach the truth—fear of losing people, fear of hurting the offerings, fear people leaving; and yet in my journey in life and ministry for over 50 years, I've found many men and women who are honorable. We all do the ministry differently. Everybody has their own style of ministry. They do things the way the God leads them to do it, but I'm going to tell you something: **we all believe the same thing, we all have the same Bible, we all face the same criticism and issues, we all understand that we're forming the rear-guard action, and every one of these guys is honorable because that's what it takes.**

Proverbs 27:17. *Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.*

This is what happens when you get guys like this together—iron sharpeneth iron. **And I'll tell you, David's mighty men of valor are still around today even though we're a remnant. You'll always want to hang around honorable men who have courage, determination, and loyalty.**

V. Summary

So, there you have the four character qualities of David's mighty men of valor. Men who took a stand with him, who stood by him in everything that he fought because he led by example, and they realized what leadership really was.

Today, we're a remnant, and we're going to hold the line. And it takes men and women dedicated to that cause to do what God has called us to do. We aren't going to hide out someplace. We aren't going to isolate ourselves from the world. We're going right up to the front, we're going to jump over the wall, we're going to get the water out of the well of Bethlehem, and we're going to smite them hip and thigh if they get in the way. That's what God's people do—holding the line, rear-guard action, and not hiding under a rock someplace, but taking the battle to them for the honor and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.