

The Warrior Chronicles #1 “Armed For the Cause”

1 Chronicles 12:1-2

1 Chronicles 12 gives a list of mighty men/warriors who helped David become King. Going to look at various men/tribes/attributes

1 Chronicles 12 ¹Now these are they that came to David to Ziklag, while he yet kept himself close because of Saul the son of Kish: and they were among the mighty men, helpers of the war. ²They were armed with bows, and could use both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows out of a bow, even of Saul's brethren of Benjamin.

I. JOINING THE CAUSE

A. This is a list of mighty men -- men who were renowned warriors in the army

1. Their tribe/their names/their heart -- character/their skills/their impact
 - a. Other people said they were mighty men: You don't self-announce/self-diagnose; ***I am powerful!***
2. Q: *What is it you want to be known for? What do you want to be remembered for?*
 - a. *What will live on after you die?*

B. A common factor in becoming mighty is joining yourself to a cause

1. **V1** Now these are they that came to David to Ziklag...and they were among the mighty men, helpers of the war
 - a. The cause: Helping David achieve the will of God -- helping their nation achieve victory over enemies
2. Many men never make impact b/c they waste their lives on small things
 - a. Video games in the basement! b. Sports/recreation c. Money: Things that won't last
3. You can choose to join your life to a larger cause
 - a. **Mark 1:17** Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."
 1. The will of God in general 2. Other people 3. Calling to preach
 - b. Catch a vision: *Your life can be larger than...video games/money, etc.*

II. BEING ARMED

A. An obvious requirement for battle is weaponry

1. You can't fight without weapons!
 - a. Convert in SA: Robber grabbed girl's bag -- he hit/robber shot/killed. A man w/a fist is no match for a man w/a gun
2. Our primary weapon in battle is the word of God **Eph 6:17** ...sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
 - a. This is how you protect yourself: Jesus defeated the Devil with 'it is written'
 - b. This is how you defeat the enemy in many ways: Lies/deception
 - c. This is how you help others: Witnessing/altar calls/preaching

B. Our text says they were armed with bow and arrows

1. They didn't buy these from Walmart: *These took great effort -- time/cost*
 - a. They made/hand-crafted bows/arrows;
 1. No doubt they had to ask/watch others to know how to craft bow/arrows
 2. They probably had to travel to find materials/cut/strip/heat/shape...
2. You must develop an arsenal of the word of God
 - a. Read it daily -- not occasionally b. Study it for yourself/deeper insight c. Ask questions
3. If you don't love the word of God -- ask God to give you a love for it!

III. BALANCED WARFARE

A. Human nature tends to imbalance:

1. They are only good at one thing -- they only have one approach
 - a. Drama team in Footscray: *It's just not a good drama unless somebody's going to hell*
2. But a limited approach is ineffective -- and can even be damaging
 - a. *If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to view everyone as a nail*
 1. All hell commitment -- no grace 2. All grace -- no sin/no commitment
 - b. **Jude 22-23** ²²And on some have compassion, making a distinction; ²³but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

B. Developing balance

1. **You have to have honest self-assessment:** *What am I good at/where am I weak/what don't I enjoy?*
2. **You have to practice what you're not good at:** *People skills confrontation/difficult conversations*
3. **You have to develop wisdom for what is appropriate:**
 - a. Long-range: A rock won't work b. Low on arrows: I should use a rock
 1. Witnessing/altar calls: One approach/spiel won't work for everyone

C. The end result: We become part of something larger -- our lives make lasting impact