

The Warrior Chronicles #5: “Skills, Rank and Purpose”

1 Chronicles 12:33

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 12:33 Of Zebulun, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, with all instruments of war, fifty thousand, which could keep rank: they were not of double heart.

I. DEVELOPING YOUR SKILLS

A. The basis of ministry is heart and character:

1. Who you are is more important than what you can do
 - a. Talented men without character wind up hurting other people
 - b. Talented men without character don't last over time
 1. Judas handled money/perhaps more educated: Didn't make it
 2. I know so many talented men not in ministry today
2. Lists of qualifications in Timothy/Titus: *The majority are character issues*
3. Also the Bible speaks of a supernatural dimension: *Dominion and anointing and the miraculous*

B. But this text shows us that skills are a vital part of ministry! **V33** expert in war, with all instruments of war

1. You can't do the will of God on heart/character alone
 - a. When we lack skills – we make our job harder: *Men who can't connect/men who can't preach*
 - b. When we lack skills – we harm our credibility over time
2. You gain skills by practicing: **V33** expert in war...
3. You must determine to develop in areas you're not good at: **V33** with all instruments of war

C. 3 areas of skills

1. People skills: Knowing how to connect/sensing where people are at/handling conflict wisely
2. Preaching skills: Learning how to communicate with something to say – and saying it well!
3. Money skills: Budgeting/keeping track/planning – breaking through and having dominion in money

II. KEEPING RANK

A. We tend to be self-centered and selfish: *Children's school reports – doesn't play well with others*

1. So when we sense God's call – we often make it about us
 - a. We make decisions only thinking of our benefit
 - b. We compete/act in envy
 1. *I won't help your outreach – but I want you to help mine*
 2. *We speak against others/cause turmoil*
 - b. **Philippians 2:21** *For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.*
2. So men leave a trail of offense – or people avoid them/refuse to work with them
 - a. *Me: Offended the caretaker Drum stool war: What will other people think?*

B. These men could work well with others: **V33** which could keep rank:

1. Literally talking about being able to march together
 - a. *Man in Army: Learned to march on gravel. If hear one crunch, you're marching together. If we hear a lot of crunches, you're out of step*
2. What you do affects other people! And affects their opinion of you/willingness to work with you
 - a. *Whether you help/speak well of/serve or sacrifice for others*
3. Keeping rank enables God's will to be done – and it brings you into your destiny

III. BEING SINGLE HEARTED

A. Our problem is often not choosing between crime and God's will

1. It is choosing between things that are good – and things that are the best
 - a. *Vance Havner: It's possible that the good can become the enemy of the best*
2. Many men hear from God/know what God wants – but they waver
 - a. **James 1:8** *A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. Like a drunk reeling back and forth*
3. Double-minded men hesitate to make good choices
 - a. They suffer option lock: *Stuck in place b/c there are multiple options*
4. Double-minded men start and stop over and over: *Therefore they never make progress*

B. Our text tells us these men were single-minded: **V33** they were not of double heart.

1. You have to decide what God wants – and what is most important to you
 - a. Then deliberately eliminate other options: *Elisha burned oxen yokes disciples left jobs/career/family*
2. When there are not other options – it makes it easier to focus

a. **Philippians 3:13** *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,*