

Story of 3 of David's mighty men: records their loyalty to David. Loyalty is a key to usefulness.

I. LOYAL MEN

A. There can be some unhealthy attitudes in men

1. **Self-interest:** What's in it for me? What can I get out of you?
 - a. Use people – get upset or turn away from them when they are not getting something from them
2. **Pride that breeds independence:** I know better – don't tell me what to do!
3. **Minimum effort:** What is the least I have to do – and still get what I want?
 - a. Mile-markers to carry Roman gear: I mile – and not an inch more!

B. But these men were connected to David as their leader

1. God's plan in life/salvation and the church is leadership: *Men who lead you into God's will*
 - a. *Joshua 1:6 you will lead these people to inherit the land...*
2. These men made a choice to join themselves to a man of God: *They joined him at cave of Adullam*
3. These 3 men were mighty men: *They distinguished themselves above others: Greater effectiveness*
 - a. There was a dimension of heart that went beyond b. Their attitude: *How can I be a blessing to David?*
 1. **V17-18** ¹⁷*And David said with longing, "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!"* ¹⁸*So the three broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David.*
 - a. *Not washing his car – giving lots of gifts* b. Their attitude was the gift!
4. You have to catch your Pastor's spirit: *Be in tune with His heart – what does he love/value/want to see?*

C. This is something that has to continue over time

1. There can't come a time where our loyalty is past tense
 - a. I used to be loyal – but now I'm smarter/successful/now I have resources
 - b. Joab came to that point: I know better – he ended his life in destruction and shame

II. A LOYAL LEADER

A. We understand that loyalty can be abused

1. When men of God view people as a personal resource
 - a. *How can I get stuff from people? How can I get them to do things for me?*
2. But David didn't view loyalty like that: He felt that loyalty is something holy
 - a. *Nevertheless David would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD*
 1. It's not that we're so special – above others: *People are loyal only b/c of Jesus*
3. His concern was for them – their safety; *Their future!*
 - a. **V19** *he said, "Far be it from me, O my God, that I should do this! Shall I drink the blood of these men who have put their lives in jeopardy? For at the risk of their lives they brought it." Therefore he would not drink it.*
4. The people who come into your life  are a stewardship
 - a. It is the greatest privilege: I can be a part of their destiny!
 - b. I have to do what is right – to help them enter their destiny
 1. **WM: Discipleship is a sincere desire to help another man enter his destiny**

III. THE IMPACT OF LOYALTY

A. Where there are loyal leaders and loyal followers – there is the blessing of God

1. These men called mighty men: *Not a personal achievement/award on the wall*
 - a. **They brought about the will of God in Israel**
 1. Their lives became larger than they could be by themselves
 - b. **They helped/blessed other people:**
 1. Helped David/his destiny 2. They saved people's lives – changed them for the good/blessed
 - c. **They inspired other people:** These men were leaders in the army
 1. Other men believed they could win – b/c of their example/passion/spirit/faith
 - a. You want other people to want to be like you b. To do the good things you do
 2. Thousands of years later – they are still inspiring people
 - a. That can be true of you as well