

KEEPING RANK AND HEART

1 CHRONICLES 12

Text: 1 Chronicles 12:21

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²¹ *And they helped David against the band of the rovers: for they were all **mighty men of valour**, and were captains in the host.*

Introduction:

We have here the story of David's mighty men coming to make David their king.

Notice the characteristics of these men.

- They were separated vs. 8

(1 Chr 12:8) "And of the Gadites there separated themselves unto David into the hold to the wilderness men of might, and men of war fit for the battle, that could handle shield and buckler, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as the roes upon the mountains;"

(2 Cor 6:17) "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"

- They were strong men vs. 21, 25, 28, 30

(1 Chr 12:21) "And they helped David against the band of the rovers: for they were all mighty men of valour, and were captains in the host."

(1 Chr 12:25) "Of the children of Simeon, mighty men of valour for the war, seven thousand and one hundred."

(1 Chr 12:28) "And Zadok, a young man mighty of valour, and of his father's house twenty and two captains."

(1 Chr 12:30) "And of the children of Ephraim twenty thousand and eight hundred, mighty men of valour, famous throughout the house of their fathers."

- They were studied men vs. 32

(1 Chr 12:32) "And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment."

- They were serious men

This was not a job for the frivolous nor the foolish. Their lives and the life of their leader depended on

them. They were prepared both physically and mentally. These Gadites had to cross a swollen river to join David in his battles. It would have been much easier to have just stayed in the comfort of their own homes than to venture out to battle for David.

- They were satisfied men

In our day, it is hard to understand how men could be satisfied in the supporting role that these men undertook. David was the one who got the attention; he was the leader with the "starring role." But these mighty men are the ones God used to protect David and place him back on his throne.

Though all of these men were men with great character I want us to look closely tonight at two of these groups.

(1 Chr 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."

(1 Chr 12:37-38) "And on the other side of Jordan, of the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and of the half tribe of Manasseh, with all manner of instruments of war for the battle, an hundred and twenty thousand. {38} All these men of war, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David king over all

Israel: and all the rest also of Israel were of one heart to make David king."

- They Were Sound Men

1. Sound in their convictions
2. Sound in their cause
3. Sound in their courses

1. THESE MEN COULD KEEP RANK

A. These men had a purpose

(Acts 11:23) "Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord."

(Dan 1:8) "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."

B. These men had the right priorities

(Col 1:18) "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."

2. THESE MEN HAD THE RIGHT KIND OF HEART

A. Were not double hearted

(Acts 2:46) "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,"

(Eph 6:5) "Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;"

(Col 3:22) "Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:"

1. A double heart or mind leads to un-stability

(James 1:8) "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

B. Perfect Heart

- That word means that they were prepared.
- How do we prepare.

1. Seek the Lord's help

(Psa 63:1) "O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;"

2. Have the right vision.

(Prov 29:18) "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."

3. See the cause.

(1 Sam 17:29) "And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?"

4. Surrender self to the Saviour

(Gal 2:20) "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

5. Keep on keeping on

(1 Sam 25:13) "And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff."

Don't Quit