

Series: Unlikely Heroes

A MAN WITH GREAT CHARACTER AND CONVICTION

2 SAMUEL 11:8-11

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¹¹ And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing.

Introduction:

We all know of David, Bathsheba and the situation that came about, however most know very little of Uriah – a man with great character and conviction.

II Samuel 23 lists 37 extraordinary soldiers who were the elite fighting force of Israel. They were known as "David's Mighty Men".

Among these is listed Uriah the Hittite. Now we see that he is given permission to rest and go and spend time with his wife before returning back to the battle

but that went against his nature. His nature was that of a fighting man.

As believers we are in a daily battle. (Eph. 6:12-13)

Ephesians 6:12-13

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

It is sad to see churches all over losing faithful members more and more. It is even more sad to hear believers trying to justify this action by claiming that this is the great falling away of the last days....as if, that made it all okay.

Many believers do all they can to try to excuse themselves from the spiritual warfare of this life.

Sadly many of God's children only draw close to God for what they can get out of Him.

Uriah wasn't like that at all. He wanted back in the battle. When we study this passage of Scripture we find out it was because he had the right kind of character and convictions.

Motivational seminars seem to be the new craze in churches today.

May we be reminded that salesmen need motivation; Christians need character and conviction.

In our text, we see the evidence of his character and conviction.

1. HE WAS DEPENDABLE – WENT TO THE BATTLE

2 Samuel 11:1

¹ And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

The two greatest abilities are availability and dependability.

Uriah was both – He went to the battle with Joab.

Not only did they go to the battle but they were victorious in the battle.

We too need to be available and dependable.

2. HE HAD THE RIGHT DESIRE – TO BE WITH THE ARK OR THE PRESENCE OF GOD

In the O.T. the Ark of the Covenant symbolized the presence of God.

Note the implications here - the Lord is in the field with His army while David stays at home in leisure.

Uriah's presence is a rebuke to David and his testimony is a reprimand to the king.

Uriah realized something that David had forgotten.

Uriah knew that when one stands in the presence of God he cannot be defeated.

John 16:33

³³ These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

The very fact that Uriah was back home at the palace was evidence that David had distanced himself from the presence of God and was suffering spiritual defeat.

In fact, the only reason that Uriah had been called back home was to hopefully cover up one result of David's spiritual disobedience.

Uriah knew that in the presence of God there is a peace that cannot be duplicated.

In the midst of the battle Uriah had peace; the peace of trusting God; the peace of knowing God; the peace of dwelling in God's presence.

Not only was the Presence of God there but also:

3. HE HAD REAL DEVOTION (VS. 6-11)

2 Samuel 11:6-11

⁶ And David sent to Joab, saying, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷ And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded of him how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered. ⁸ And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess of meat from the king. ⁹ But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house. ¹⁰ And when they had told David, saying, Uriah went not down unto his house, David said unto Uriah, Camest thou not from thy journey? why then didst thou not go down unto thine house? ¹¹ And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to

drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing.

We are not certain how long Uriah had been away but it was long enough for Bathsheba to discover she was with child.

Note Uriah's devotion

In an effort to cover his sin David sent for Uriah to come home from the battle. Upon his arrival David inquired about the leadership of Joab and how the battle was going.

David then sends Uriah to his house to refresh himself and to spend some time with his wife.

Again remember:

It had been some time since Uriah had sat at his table for a home cooked meal.

It had been some time since Uriah had been able to bath and refresh himself.

It had been sometime since he had been able to sleep in his own bed.

It had been sometime since he had spent time with his wife.

But instead of enjoying a home cooked meal, sleeping in his own bed and the company of his wife, Uriah slept at the door of the kings house.

Not his explanation as to why:

2 Samuel 11:11

¹¹ And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? *as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing.*

Uriah wasn't going to take advantage of what pleasant things was available to him while Joab and the other servants were sleeping in fields.

Would to God the we too would not be so concerned about our comforts but remaining to the task and responsibilities that have been entrusted to us.

4. HE WAS FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH

2 Samuel 11:14-17

¹⁴ *And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵ And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die. ¹⁶ And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were. ¹⁷ And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell some of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also.*

Uriah didn't retreat

He was faithful unto the end.

Close:

What type of character and convictions do we have?

Are we dependable?

Do we have the right desires?

Is Our Devotion as it should be?

We will be faithful unto death?