

MEDITATIONS FOR MIGHTY MEN

The battle between David and Goliath has thrilled Christians and Jews for approximately 3,000 years—and is remembered as one of the greatest two-man battles in human history—not for the fierceness of the struggle, but for the weapon used by a non-military sheep herder. The story is recorded in I Samuel chapter 17. When you study the life of David in the two Books of Samuel, you will learn his successes in battle, and in life, were founded on spiritual principles that still apply to New Testament Christians today. The same is true for all the Old Testament heroes like Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua and Daniel. The preparation for life's mission began in childhood as they learned the importance of prayer, God's Word, worship—and winning the range of wars between the spirit and the flesh of humanity (Galatians 5:16—26).

Toward the end of David's adventurous life, which began shepherding his father's sheep and defending them from wolves and bears; we see him as the King of Israel whom God loved—and who is revered by Jewish and Christian worshippers as they read and sing his Psalms. He is one of the principle linking forefathers of the Messiah. But David didn't accomplish all of these victories alone, II Samuel chapter 23 and 1 Chronicles 11 lists the greatest of David's devoted warriors whom the Bible calls Mighty Men! Reading about the spectacular victories of these Mighty Men is hair-raising at times, and we understand that God gave them supernatural strength, wisdom and protection.

We know this God by many names: He is the Creator of heaven and earth, The Father of all humanity, the Eternal Spirit filled with wisdom and justice; He is mighty in battle, He is our strength, our guide, our teacher, our ever present Help, our healer—and much more. My mission is to prepare a series of studies to develop Mighty Men of faith to do great exploits in the service of our Lord and Master. America needs to change its course and return to Bible morality. The church needs to renew its mission—to proclaim the Gospel without fear or compromise, and to set a godly example of people who understand life in God's kingdom. Christians need to turn from ungodly ways and lead America into repentance and favor with God.

From 65 years of Bible study and character building, together with a wealth of experience during a half a century of missionary and administrative Christian service, I will ask the Lord to guide me in writing a series of short, instructive and inspiring meditations that will help equip an army of Mighty Men for spiritual battle. I am not a Theologian, and I try to write in common terms to explain basic biblical principles so anyone can understand. I believe Christians must strive to fulfill II Chronicles 7:14 in America and the Christian nations: *“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”* We can learn from the Mighty Men who have gone before us. Will you join this modern day army of the Lord? Let me help you on life's journey.

What God Sees In YOU!

According to Psalm 139:13—17 You were fearfully and wonderfully made.
God saw your body members in you mother's womb and wrote them in a book before you were born. Your thoughts are precious to God.

According to Psalm 33:13—15 God looks from heaven and sees every human being.
God fashions each heart individually.
God considers every person's work in life.

According to Jeremiah 29:11 God has good thoughts of peace and not evil for you,
to give you a future and a hope.

According to Romans 8:31 God will fight for you and for all believers.

According to Philippians 1:6 God will complete the good work He has begun in your life.

ONE GLASS OF MILK

(author unknown)

One day, a poor boy who was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry. He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door. Instead of a meal he asked for a drink of water. She thought he looked hungry so she brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it so slowly, and then asked, "How much do I owe you?" "You don't owe me anything," she replied. "Mother *has taught us never to accept pay for a kindness*". He said: "Then I thank you from my heart."

As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God and man was strong also. He had been ready to give up and quit his studies. Many years later that same young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled. They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease.

Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for consultation. When he heard the name of the town she came from, a strange light filled his eyes. Immediately he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to her room and he recognized her at once. Determined to do his best to save her life he gave special attention to her case from that day forward.

After a long struggle, the battle was won. Dr. Kelly requested the business office to pass the final bill to him for approval. He looked at it, then wrote something on the edge and the bill was sent to her room. She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it. Finally, she looked and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She read these words: "*Paid in full with one glass of milk*". (Signed) Dr. Howard Kelly. Tears of joy flooded her eyes as her happy heart prayed: "Thank You, God, that Your love has spread broad through human hearts and hands."

There is a saying that: "*Bread cast upon the water comes back to you*". The good deed you do today may benefit you or someone you love at the least expected time. If you never see the deed again at least you will have made the world a better place—and after all, isn't that what life is all about?

Mighty Man—your life is God's gift to you— what you do with it is your gift to God.

Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh? Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.'" (Isaiah 58:6-9)

"Blessed is he who considers the poor; the Lord will deliver him In time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him and keep him alive, and he will be blessed on the earth; You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies. The Lord will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sick bed." (Psalm 41:1-3).

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