

Significant Lessons From The Seemingly Insignificant

#6 Benaiah

When David's kingdom was established the name of the Lord God of Israel was published far and abroad. But great as he was, David did not stand alone. Surrounding him were a band of mighty men, committed to David and his kingdom, who accomplished great feats of valor. They risk it all on God and, by risking it all on God, God shows up and does amazing incredible things.

Rom. 15:4 "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction,"
They have meaning and purpose for us.

Benaiah's father, Jehoiada, was a leader among the priests who rallied 3,700 men to support David when he was crowned at Hebron (I Chron. 12:27). Benaiah is from the tribe of Levi, and a descendant of Aaron, the first high priest of Israel. He is a priest turned soldier.

Benaiah's 3 Battles: I Chron. 11:22-25 Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was a valiant man of Kabzeel, a doer of great deeds; he slew two ariels [lion-like men] of Moab. He also went down and slew a lion in a pit on a snowy day. And he slew an Egyptian, a man of great stature, five cubits tall. The Egyptian had in his hand a spear like a weaver's beam; but Benaiah went down to him with a staff, and snatched the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear. These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and won a name beside the three mighty men. He was renowned among the thirty, but did not attain to the three. David set him over his guard. This account is also recorded in II Sam. 23:20-24.

1. Benaiah: mighty man; loyal to David before David became Israel's king.
2. Two groups of men are mentioned: the 30 and the 3.
 - a. The 3 mighty men were the leaders of all the armed forces of Israel.
 - b. A band of 30 men were the commanders of various divisions within the military.
 - c. Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was prominent among the 30 men.
 - d. He was made captain of David's bodyguard due to 3 deeds of valor in his life.
3. Benaiah found the opportunities that God presented and he seized those opportunities.

Notice: The 3 enemies Benaiah overcame are used as types or symbols of our enemies today: The World, The Flesh & The Devil.

A. Benaiah smote 2 ariels [lion-like men] of Moab.

1. When Lot fled from Sodom, he hid with his 2 daughters in a cave.
2. Lot was made drunk by the two and in his drunken stupor, he sired children by each of his own daughters. Results were: Ammon and Moab = Relatives but enemies of Israel, God's people.
3. Moabites, related to the Israelites, were living on the borders of Israel.
4. Moab represents the FLESH within us that stands in hostile opposition against us. Our FLESH; Self-life; Old Life - It lives in the back room of our life.

We are ashamed of it but we cannot get rid of it. It is the Old Life opposes our New Life. It is the Old Man that is a bitter enemy of the New Man.

Self-Directed Life

- Legalistic attitude
- Impure thoughts
- Jealousy
- Guilt
- Worry
- Discouragement
- Critical spirit
- Frustration



- Aimlessness
- Fear
- Ignorance of spiritual heritage
- Unbelief
- Disobedience
- Loss of love for God and others
- Poor prayer life
- No desire for Bible Study

5. Isa. 16:6 We have heard of the pride of Moab; he is very proud: even of his haughtiness, and his pride, and his wrath: but his lies shall not be so.

Jer. 48:2, 7 There shall be no more praise of Moab: in Heshbon they have devised evil against it; come, and let us cut it off from being a nation. For because thou hast trusted in thy works and in thy treasures, thou shalt also be taken:

6. Paul declared: Galatians 5:17 - "*The flesh lusteth [intense desire] against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh, and these are contrary to one another*"

Two 'Internal' occupants of our life as constantly warring for control:

The flesh wants to control our life so it can fashion it after the earthly.

The Holy Spirit wants to control our life so He can fashion it after the eternal.

II Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Gal. 5:16 Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Wow!!!

B. He met an Egyptian of great stature [5 cubits = ~7 ½' tall] who had a tremendous spear like a weaver's beam. A weaver's loom had a tremendous beam on it about 6" or 7" thick.

He slew an Egyptian = used as a type of an enemy, The World, in Scripture.

1. Egypt was the leading nation of the world with its vast armies and tremendous temples, its pharaohs with their pomp and circumstance, its libraries and accumulated wisdom.

Picture of the empty glory of this world

Many Israelites longed to return to Egypt. They had forgotten the bondage, slavery, cruelty, tears and heartache of Egypt. They only remembered the comforts, conveniences, the leeks, onions, garlic and melons of Egypt, the world.

Egypt was a vivid picture of the world and its ways, prestige, pride and status.

2. Benaiah the son of Jehoiadah met this huge man with this great spear and using only his staff, knocked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, seized it and slew the giant with his own spear. He was not overwhelmed by the size of the dilemma facing him.

He won great fame in Israel as a man of valor.

3. This incident is used as a picture of a man who overcame the world.

World = It's a system, a philosophy that is going in the opposite direction of God

John Wesley's definition of the world: "*Anything that cools my love for Christ is the world.*"

The world is that enemy that seeks to get us to love earthly things more than eternal things.

I John 5:4 For Whatsoever Is Born Of God Overcometh The World: And This Is The Victory That Overcometh The World, Even Our Faith.

C. Benaiah Went Down & Slew A Lion In A Pit On A Snowy Day.

I Pet. 5:8 Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1. A sinister enemy with tremendous majesty, authority and power looking for someone!

2. Lion is a ferocious adversary. He met him and slew him in a very difficult place.

Focus: Killing of the Lion

A lion is able with one blow of his paw to smash the human skull.

Yet the skull bones are among the strongest structures of the body.

A lion is able to bite through any bone of the human, including the thigh bone.

1. Benaiah faced this ferocious beast at close quarters.

2. Benaiah met the lion in the worst possible place - in a pit; can't get away; no escape

3. We all have a "lion" in our lives: something we dread, been afraid of. It is always threatening in the back of our thoughts. Maybe it is a physical disease or affliction.

Maybe it is a crushing disappointment: being left alone; a financial ruin.

Consider: Have you ever run into "your lion" and found there was no way to avoid it?

He met the lion in a pit on a snowy day. More treacherous

Snow numbs the fingers and makes it difficult to handle weapons.

Snow makes footing treacherous and slippery.

Snow blinds the eyes.

Worst foe; worst possible place; worst possible circumstance

Consider: Have you been in a situation you have dreaded? People finding out about Laura

Yep, he is in there and he wants our blood. He wants us to stay in the pit.

He wants our visibility of the One to be blurred because of the pit!

Truth: We are confronted with these 3 enemies: the world, the flesh and the devil.

Felt the pressure and experienced the attack of Moab, our flesh, sneaking up on us when we least expect it.

Felt the pull of the world and its attractiveness; wanted to be involved because we might miss something.

Felt a tremendous dread of the devil and terrified by this powerful adversary

Question: How did he win? Scripture doesn't seem to reveal it to us.

Prov. 25:2 The glory of God is to conceal a thing, but the glory of kings is to search it out.

God never seems to tell us something without hiding the answer for us to find.

Are there clues which tell us how Benaiah the son of Jehoiada won this battle?

1. Benaiah was a mighty man of valor. It Was Not The Deeds that made him that way. He was already a man of valor. The deeds just made it clear that he was that kind of man.
2. Bible: Look at a man's name because Biblical names are deliberately designed to give a clue to the character.

Recall: God often changed a man's name when he changed his character.

Jacob meant usurper or supplanter. God changed it to Israel, prince with God when Jacob went through a transforming experience in his life.

God changed Abram = exalted father; to Abraham = father of a multitude.

He changed Sarai = dominating; to Sarah = princess.

He changed Simon = stone; to Peter = rock.

He changed Saul = asked; to Paul = little

Enoch, who walked with God and was not for God took him, named his son Methuselah.

Enoch began walking with God when he was 65 and his son was born.

Methuselah = when he dies it will come - - - What will come? The flood!

The year Methuselah died - the flood came.

God's grace to man > He lived 969 years to allow repentance.

Benaiah the Son of Jehoiada:

1. In almost every instance, he is listed as Benaiah the son of Jehoiada.

Take the meanings [oldest man first].

Jehoiada = God knows Benaiah = God Builds Up

2. How to defeat the lion in my life: Rest upon the fact that God knows and God builds.

A. God KNOWS where I am. He chose that place for me.

He knows what I am going through and He permitted it.

Rom. 8:28-29 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

God KNOWS what I feel: upset, angry, remorseful, impatient, bitter, been betrayed...

Heb. 4:15 We have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses;

He has in every respect been tempted as we are.

Corrie Ten Boom: One day the women were marched out single-file and, one by one, were made to take off all their clothes and stand absolutely naked before a group of Nazi doctors, arrogant men, who showed their contempt for them. Corrie says that she turned to her sister and said, "Bessie, remember, Jesus was naked on the cross." Her sister turned, and her face lit up with a smile, "Oh, that's right. Oh, that helps!" God knows how you feel.

B. God BUILDS: He has a purpose in mind. Out of all of Paul's heartache, sorrow, pain and suffering he said:

II Cor. 4:17 "This light affliction," he said, "is but for a moment, and is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory"

Rom. 8:18 "I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us,"

Consider: Those who go through heartaches, pressure, problems, and tribulation emerge softened, chastened, mellowed, more loving, warmer, more compassionate when they submit and allow God to do the work in them.

The Point: Secret of Survival: God Knows & God Builds

If God puts you in a battle, He will do it for His glory and use you to do great works for His sake.

Dealing with Conspirators

When David was old and learned his son Adonijah had himself declared king, David called Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada who was the commander over David's personal guards.

I Kings 1:32-37

The king also said to them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride on my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon: And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow you with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon. Then you shall come up after him, that he may come and sit on my throne; for he shall be king in my stead: and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah.

And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, and said, Amen: the LORD God of my lord the king say so too. As the LORD has been with my lord the king, even so be he with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord king David."

I Kings 1:38-40 So Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, went down, and caused Solomon to ride upon king David's mule, and brought him to Gihon. ³⁹ And Zadok the priest took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, God save king Solomon. ⁴⁰ And all the people came up after him, and the people piped with pipes, and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth rent with the sound of them.

After King David died, Solomon became king. Soon afterward Adonijah conspired (again) to be named king of Israel. King Solomon sent Benaiah to Adonijah with the order to kill Adonijah. When the news came to Joab, commander of David's army, that Adonijah was dead, Joab knew he was in trouble.

I Kings 2:28 Then tidings came to Joab: for Joab had turned after Adonijah, though he turned not after Absalom. And Joab fled unto the tabernacle of the LORD, and caught hold on the horns of the altar.

1. Joab supported Adonijah's bid to be king. Joab had also taken the innocent lives of Abner [commander of Israel's army] and Amasa [commander of Judah's army].
2. Holding the horns of the altar was a type of asking for mercy.
3. However, Solomon ordered Benaiah to strike him down, as undeserving of any further grace.

4. Benaiah arrives at the Tabernacle and, with his own Priestly background, hesitates to kill Joab in the holy place, so he calls him to come out of there on the authority of the King.
5. Joab refuses, saying "No, but I will die here."
6. Then Benaiah returns to the King first for further orders.
7. Only after the King said to take Joab at his word, does this godly warrior execute Joab in the Tabernacle area.

Benaiah struck 3 people with the sword at the command of the king.

Adonijah those who threaten the father's vision and interests

Joab those who betray and double-cross the father

Shimei those who dishonor the father

Result: King Solomon placed Benaiah as Commander of the King's Army. [I Kings 2:35, 4:4]

Mark Batterson: In 1895 Andrew Murray was in England staying with some dear friends while he was suffering from a terribly painful back. One morning his hostess told him of a woman who was in great trouble and wanted to know if he had any advice for her. Murray handed her a paper he had been writing on, "Just give her this advice I'm writing down for myself.

It may be helpful."

In time of trouble, say, "First, God brought me here. It is by His will I am in this strait place; in that I will rest." Next, "He will keep me here in His love, and give me grace in this trial to behave as His child." Then say, "He will make the trial a blessing, teaching me lessons He intends me to learn, and working in me the grace He means to bestow." Last: "In His good time He can bring me out again. How, and when, He knows." Therefore say, "I am here: (1) by God's appointment, (2) in His keeping, (3) under His training, (4) for His time."

"That is how to kill a lion on a snowy day."

Mark Batterson makes this statement in his book, "You rob Jesus of His glory, when you don't have the guts to step out on faith and chase a lion!" You rob Jesus of His glory when you feel the Holy Spirit prompting you to do something that seems insane and instead you play it safe. If the Holy Spirit is prompting you to do it, no matter how insane it seems go forth and do it so that Jesus gets the glory and no one else can take the credit for it. Faith in Jesus means doing whatever he asks you to do, whenever he asks you to do it, no matter what the risks, and knowing we've got a God big enough to handle the circumstances.

"Benaiah is defined by his reliance on The LORD."

Frank Boreham: Benaiah met the worst of enemies, in the worst of places, under the worst of circumstances and he won.

II Chron. 20:15 thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

"If you know The LORD, you know The Source of all you need to fight a lion on a snowy day and have VICTORY!"