

HOW WATER TURNED TO BLOOD FOR DAVID

2 Samuel 23:17 "And David said, Be it far from me, O Lord, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that vent in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men."

¹³ Then three of the thirty chief men went down at harvest time and came to David at the cave of Adullam. And the troop of Philistines encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. ¹⁴ David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. ¹⁵ And David said with longing, "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of the water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!" ¹⁶ So the three mighty men 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. Nevertheless he would not drink it, but poured it out to the Lord. ¹⁷ And he said, "Far be it from me, O Lord, that I should do this! Is this not the blood of the men who went in jeopardy of their lives?" Therefore he would not drink it.

Knighthood and chivalry are practically synonymous. From our school books we remember the tales of the noble and brave deeds done by the knights of old. They upheld a high code of honor and their deeds excite our admiration and respect.

But there is no tale of love and devotion among the knights of old that can compare with the story in our text. We have before us a deed which is like a beautiful flower found on the side of a rugged cliff. This heroic act of three men changed the water into blood in David's eyes.

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1. IT WAS INTENDED FOR DRINKING

David was fighting the Philistines who had invaded the land and had captured Bethlehem. It was at the time of harvest and very hot. Perhaps David even had a slight fever at this time, who can say? Naturally David happened to think of the sweet, cool waters of the well at Bethlehem. As a shepherd he had often paused with his flocks by this well to drink of the refreshing waters. David spoke his thoughts out loud as all of us do at times, and he said, "Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!" All David meant was what we would have said in a similar situation, "What would I not give for a cool glass of water right now." With this remark David set off a chain of events which had a surprising ending.

Three of David's mighty men of war overheard his remark, and after a quick decision among themselves, they determined to get some water from the well to please David. These men were willing to risk their lives to satisfy a mere wish of their leader! There was other water available, David was only stating a preference for the cool water by the gate of Bethlehem.



We are not told of the narrow escapes they had. Perhaps their story might have sounded like that of a football player making a long and weaving run with the ball to the goal line. Their story would surely leave us breathless with fascination as on and on they went through the enemy lines and drew water from the well and returned safely to their camp. What fierce devotion!

These three men who voluntarily risked their lives to show their daring devotion to their beloved leader, really excite our admiration and respect. Surely David must have been encouraged by their act. "If they will do that for me, they will do anything in battle, how can I lose the victory with men like these?" were perhaps his thoughts at the moment. The deed of these three men was like a cool, refreshing drink of water to the parched soul of David.

If only we had such devotion to the Lord Jesus and His cause. These men were willing to fling away their lives for a drink of water, would

they be willing to do the same thing for the Lord? Would we? We do not want to minimize their noble deed, we only hope that more of such devotion among us will be directed in a different channel. Oh that the Lord's slightest wish would become our greatest desire in life! May we ever be ready to risk all to keep the Water of Life with us always.

2. IT BECAME TOO PRECIOUS TO DRINK



David was deeply touched by their devotion. The water before him suddenly assumed a new value because it was obtained at such a terrible risk. David could not drink the water now as it became the color of blood in his eyes. He said, "Is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives?" We have heard of a little Bible in the vest pocket of a soldier which stopped a bullet and saved the man's life. How precious did not that little book become in the eyes of the soldier. Similarly, the water which David held in his hand acquired a new value and made the water too precious to drink. Something more worthy must be done with this precious water.

The nobleness of the three heroes awakened in David a kindred nobleness. It was noble of the men to get the water, it would not have been noble for David to drink it. Instead, David "poured it out unto the Lord." It had become indeed water befitting an offering to the Lord.

In effect David was saying, "I am not worthy of such honor and devotion, but Thou, O Lord, art worthy of this precious water. To Thee do I dedicate it."

The three men watched David pour out the water to the Lord and they received a far greater satisfaction from their brave deed than they would have had, had David poured it down his throat. All that they risked was raised to a new height. And David could not be happy to drink such water, his whole being would have rebelled against the thought of such a drink. It would be like drinking the blood of his men. Had he drunk the water, in a few hours he would have been thirsty again; but now he had this satisfaction all the rest of his days. What a beautiful soul-touching story. What love and devotion!

David's Men are Honored

Such were the exploits of the three mighty warriors.

2 Samuel 23:17

Such were the exploits of the three mighty warriors. [2 Samuel 23:17](#).

If we had a deeper sense of love and devotion to our Lord and Savior, then many of the things which the Lord has given us would be too precious to be used for our own pleasure, and we would return them to the Lord for much better use in His kingdom. We are altogether too selfish in the use of our earthly possessions, we are often poor stewards of the wonderful things which the Savior has given us. We could be a little more daring when it comes to the kingdom of the Lord. The noble deed of these three men brings to mind the wonderful act of devotion of the poor widow who gave everything she had to the Lord. Of her Jesus said, "She of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had" ([Luke 21:4](#)).

We are also reminded of Mary's act of love to Jesus when she anointed his feet with the very costly ointment ([John 12:3](#)).

Paul's words keep coming into our memory ([Acts 21:13](#)), "What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

Whatever we offer to the Lord, He makes it still more precious, because He regards it as a loan to be repaid, or else He regards it as having been done to Him personally. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me," will be His attitude on the last day ([Matt.25:40](#)).

The greatest act of love is, of course, the offering which Jesus Christ made for us on the cross and by it has taken away the sins of the whole world. We are saved by faith and trust in His bitter sufferings and death. Our thanks to Jesus ought to inspire us to greater sacrifices for His kingdom.

May the beautiful double offering of our text inspire us to greater love and devotion to the cause of Jesus, and may it also arouse in us greater love toward one another. We need more zeal and devotion for the work of Jesus on this earth. AMEN.

PRAYER. Lord Jesus, Thou art our Water of Life. Thou wast offered up for our sins, Thy life was poured out so that we might never thirst eternally. May our hearts overflow with gratitude for what Thou hast done for us. May we be filled with a new and fuller devotion to Thee and Thy kingdom so that no sacrifice might seem too great in Thy service. Help us, dear Savior, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. AMEN