

DAVID REFUSES THE COSTLY WATER

In 2 Samuel 23, the chapter opens with “The Last Words of David” and then transitions to a section detailing David’s Mighty Men, a group of elite warriors known for their exceptional bravery and loyalty.

Verses 8-17 list several of these warriors and recount their heroic acts. They were instrumental in establishing and securing David’s reign as king and were deeply loyal to him, often risking their lives in battle to fulfill his commands and protect him.

This section serves as a tribute to their valor and dedication as they stood with him during the difficult time of his exile and during his reign.

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.

In **verses 15-17**, a story is recounted when David while in the cave of Adullam expresses a deep, personal longing for water from his hometown of Bethlehem. At this time, Bethlehem was occupied by the Philistines, and it would have been very risky to retrieve water from there.

The well by Bethlehem’s gate held sentimental value to David, as it represented a link to his past and his longing for home. This desire, however, was more of a reflective thought, a wish, rather than an order. He was speaking to himself, but his loyal men took it seriously.

Verse 16: In response, three of his mighty men—unnamed here but possibly some of the warriors mentioned earlier in the passage—decided to fulfill his wish. They undertook a dangerous mission to break through the Philistine camp to retrieve the water. Their act demonstrated *extreme loyalty, courage, and devotion* to David, willing to risk their lives to satisfy a mere wish of their leader.

Verse 17: When the men bring the water to David, he chooses not to drink it. Instead, he **“poured it out to the LORD”** as a drink offering. When David looked into cup he didn’t see water , he saw the blood of the three men who risked their lives to satisfy his desire . To David the water was symbolic of the *sacrifice and blood* his men were willing to shed for him.

He felt unworthy to consume something that represented such *self-sacrifice and devotion*. In pouring it out to God, David was recognizing that only God is worthy of that level of dedication, not himself. The three men took no offense , their hearts were in tune with David’s heart, they understood his motives .

This gesture showed David’s humility and his reverence for the loyalty of his men, acknowledging that such a risk should be honored by offering it to the Lord rather than for his own personal enjoyment.

Now let’s see Jesus our Lord in the story, for volume of the book is about Him.

1. **David’s Deep Thirst:** David’s longing for water from Bethlehem symbolizes a deeper spiritual thirst. Just as David desired the water of his hometown, humanity’s soul thirsts for spiritual fulfillment.

Jesus, who was from Bethlehem is the “living water” (John 4:10), meets this need, offering eternal satisfaction and the true refreshment of the soul.

2. **The Sacrifice to Procure the Water:** David’s men risked their lives to satisfy their king’s desire, showing ultimate loyalty and sacrificial love.

This foreshadows Jesus’ own sacrifice, as He willingly faced death to fulfill the Father’s will and secure salvation for humanity. Christ’s sacrifice is the ultimate act of love and obedience, willingly given to fulfill humanity’s deepest need (John 15:13).

3. **David Pours out the Water:** When David poured out the water before the Lord , he transformed it into a sacred offering, showing that it was too precious for personal enjoyment.

This parallels Christ pouring out His life in sacrifice for others, an offering to God that was wholly holy and sacred, given for our redemption.

4. **An Offering to God:** By dedicating the water to God, David acknowledged that only God deserved such devotion.

In a greater sense, Jesus' sacrifice was directed toward God the Father, satisfying divine justice and honoring God's holiness. Just as David's act elevated the water's significance, Christ's sacrifice brought infinite value to His offering, reconciling us to God.