Let's Get Acquainted With Benaiah (8 of 10)

Let's Get Acquainted Series

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I Chronicles 11:22-25

1. The Charles Manson killings live in the annals of grisly crime as perhaps the most horrifying and fascinating of this century. On August 8, 1969, followers of Manson killed actress Sharon Tate and several others in a gruesome and brutal fashion. Two nights later, on August 10, Manson himself was involved in the murder of the Labianca's.

After Manson tied the Labianca's up with some ornamental leather thongs he had around his neck, Leno Labianca was stabbed in the throat and the knife left there. Rosemary Labianca was stabbed 41 times. With the fresh blood of their victims, the killers scrawled "Rise" and "Healter Skelter" on the wall. The word "war" was carved on the stomach of Leno Labianca with a carving fork.

2. The name Charles Manson, as well as other names such as Ted Bundy, Jeffrey Dahmer, will live in infamy as some of the most notorious killers in history.

3. As we continue getting acquainted with some of the not so well knowns in the Old Testament we meet a man that was famous as a killer. Now, he was not a killer that you would put in the category of Manson, Dahmer, and Bundy, but his only claim to fame was that of a killer. He was a soldier famous for the enemies he slew in conflict. His name is Benaiah.

4. Eric Hayden said: "There are few names like Benaiah in the Old Testament. He is the sort of man that makes that makes our blood flow faster and sets our nerves
5. Let's look at Benaiah and consider three truths that we can glean from his life.

1. THE FOES THAT HE FACED!

1. As we look at the Scriptures we see that there were three foes that Benaiah faced. There were 2 lion-like men of Moab; there was a lion he slew in a pit; and an Egyptian.

2. Now as I look at these 3 foes that Benaiah faced I find that they are symbolic of the 3 great foes of the Christian life.

A. THERE IS OUR INTERNAL FOE.

1. In verse 22 we see that Benaiah met in battle 2 lion-like men of Moab. The words "lion-like" are sometimes translated "Ariel." The ideal is that they were powerful and heroic men of Moab.

2. The significance of these 2 men is that they were from Moab. The Moabites were a tribe that lived on the borders of Israel. In fact, they were related to Israel. When Lot fled Sodom, we are told that he fled to a cave with his 2 daughters.

3. We read of how Lot in a drunken stupor sired children by each of his daughters. One was named Ammon and the other Moab. From Moab would come the Moabites that became bitter enemies of Israel.

4. The Moabites are symbolic of the flesh our internal enemy. The flesh is our old enemy that is related to us. It is the "old life" that opposes our "new life." It is the "old man" that is a bitter enemy of the "new man."
5. Augustine used to pray: "O God, deliver me from my worst enemy, that wicked man myself."

6. One of the enemies that we battle with each day of our life is that "self" part of us: our flesh that is in direct opposition to the Spirit.

7. Paul declared in Galatians 5:17, "The flesh lusteth against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh, and these are contrary to one another."

8. Paul described 2 internal occupants of our life that are constantly warring for lordship and control of our life.

9. The Spirit of God longs to control our life and fashion it after the eternal. The flesh longs to contaminate our life and fashion it after the earthly.

10. Paul described this internal conflict in Romans 7. He spoke of a war that was within him. The good he wanted to do he could not, and the evil he did not want to do he did.

11. The flesh is that part of us:
   ? Longs for this world,
   ? Lusts after this world,
   ? Looks to this world.

12. The flesh is our internal enemy. Like Benaiah, we battle an enemy that is related to us.

B. THERE IS OUR INFERNAL FOE.

1. In verse 22 we read that Benaiah also fought a lion in a pit. He found himself in
conflict with the king of the beasts.

2. As we look in the Bible we find that the lion is symbolic of the devil. We read in I Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

3. I heard about a couple that stopped at a Gas Station is get some gas. The wife had trouble hearing. The attendant came out and said, "Fill 'er up?" The husband said, "Yes, please." As the car was being filled with gas, the attendant, as he cleaned the windshield, began talking to the husband.

"I like the color of your car. What do you call it?"

"It is a new shade of blue."

The wife asked, "What did he say?"

"He asked what color our car was and I told him."

"Are you going far?"

'Nashville."

"What did he say?"

"He asked where we were going and I told him Nashville."

"Where you from?"

"Atlanta."

"What did he say?"

"He asked where we were from and I told him Atlanta."

"Atlanta! I used to know a woman there. Beyond a shadow of doubt, she was the meanest, hardest, bitterest, coldest woman I have ever met in my life."

"What did he say?"

"Honey, he says he thinks he knows your mother."

4. Without a doubt, the meanest and hardest enemy we have is the devil. As our infernal enemy he seeks our destruction of a daily basis.
5. We read in the book of Job how that Satan appeared in the presence of God and when asked where he had been, Satan answered, "From going to and fro in the earth. The picture is of a lion that had been out searching, seeking, and stalking its prey.

6. Like the flesh, our internal enemy, Satan our infernal enemy stalks us seeking our destruction. He watches and waits for a moment when he can attack us and devour us.

7. John 8:44 speaks of Satan as a liar and the father of lies. Satan often lures his victims in with ideals of pleasure, power, and popularity. Yet his promises are lies meant to deceive and destroy.

C. THERE IS OUR EXTERNAL FOE.

1. We also see that Benaiah faced in battle an Egyptian. Verse 23 tells us that this Egyptian was a man of great stature, five cubits high (about 9 feet tall).

2. Verse 23 also tells us that he had in his hand a spear like a weaver's beam. A weavers loom had a large beam in it that was about 6 or 7 inches thick. This 9-foot Egyptian had a sword that look more like a bazooka rather than a sword.

3. Egypt in the Bible is a type of the world. It is a type of that system that is continually seeking to pull us from God and way from eternal things.

4. The Bible says in I John 2:15, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." The reference to the world is not speaking of a planet or people as is sometimes meant in the Bible. It is a system that is going in the opposite direction of God.

5. I am often amused and amazed of what people consider "worldly." For some, if you have a baptistery in the Church that is worldly. God have mercy if there is a fellowship hall and go ahead and write Maranatha over the door if there is a basketball goal outside.
6. Worldliness, in the mind of some, can range from anything from wire rim glasses to make-up on the women. I think John Wesley said it best when he said:

"Anything that cools my love for Christ is the world."

7. The world is a system of things around us that seeks to cool our love for the things of God and draw our hearts away from God. The world can be a job, car, hobby, or some other earthly pleasure or possession. The world is that enemy that seeks to get us to love earthly things more than eternal things.

8. Like the flesh and the devil, we battle with the world each day of our life. This world around me seeks my attention and affection. The world is an external enemy that we face.

9. Benaiah faced 3 foes. As believers we face 3 great foes. But unlike Benaiah, which only faced his foes on a single and separate occasion, we face all 3 of our foes on a daily basis.

10. On May 12, 1962, General Douglas MacArthur spoke to the graduating class at West Point. In his speech the General quoted Plato to the effect that, "only the dead have seen the end of war."

11. I remind you that we as believers are not on a playground, but a battleground and only those who are with the Lord have seen the end of warfare in which we are engaged.

1. The Foes That He Faced!

2. THE FIGHT THAT HE FOUGHT!

1. The foes that he faced are enlightening, but the fight that he fought is encouraging.
We know that we are in a spiritual battle, but the question is, "How are we doing?"

2. Are we victims or victors? Are we being overcome or are we overcoming? Are we being conquered or are we conquering?

3. Look at Benaiah. The Bible tells us that Benaiah "slew" his opponents:

   ? Vs.22, He "slew" the 2 lion-like men of Moab.
   ? Vs.22, He slew the lion in the pit.
   ? Vs.23, He slew the Egyptian.

4. He was a victor, not a victim. We see him confronting his foes and conquering his foes. Now look at the fight he fought.

A. HE WAS IN THE WORST POSSIBLE CIRCUMSTANCES.

1. We that Benaiah was in an outnumbered situation. Fighting one lion-like man of Moab was a challenge, but 2 stacked the odds even more.

2. We see that he was in an outrageous situation. He fought a lion in a pit. It has been suggested that this pit was a dried up well. It was a long narrow hole in the ground, which left very little room to move, and no way of escape. As Eric Hayden said:

   "He was cribb'd, cabin'd, and confin'd. It was close hand to paw fighting."

3. We see that he was in an outmatched situation. I don't imagine that Benaiah was a squirt, but I don't think he matched up with a 9 foot Egyptian with a huge sword in his hand. Yet we read in verse 23 that he went down against this Egyptian with a staff and took the sword from his hand and slew him with his own sword.

B. HE WAS IN THE WORST POSSIBLE CONDITIONS.
1. We read in verse 22 that he slew the lion in a pit in a snowy day. Not only was he in a pit with little room to maneuver, the conditions were treacherous and slippery.

2. Notice carefully that it does not say "on a snowy day" or "on a day when it was snowing," but "in a snowy day." In a snowy day implies that throughout the whole day the struggle went on.

3. All through the day with cold fingers, frostbitten toes, shivering in wet clothes, his eyes never leaving his foe, he fought careful of every step lest he slip and be devoured.

4. He was in the worst possible circumstances and the worst possible conditions. Yet he was victorious. He overcame and slew his foes.

5. In the battles of life we are going to find ourselves battling the foes of life in the worst possible circumstances and the worst possible conditions.

6. We find ourselves fighting an enemy that outnumbers us and out matches us. We find ourselves fighting in a world in which it is easy to slip and fall.

7. But regardless of the circumstances and the conditions, we can be victorious. II Corinthians 2:14 declares, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ."

8. We also read in I Corinthians 15:57, "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

9. Like Benaiah, we can be victorious in the fight against the world, the flesh, and the devil. Victory is God's design and plan for the believer. Wherever, whatever, whenever, we can be victorious.
10. In the early part of the last century an artist in Cincinnati, who was also a great chess player, painted a picture of a chess game. The players were a young man and Satan. The young man manipulated the white pieces and Satan the black. The issue of the game was that if the young man won he was forever free from the power of evil. But, should the devil win the young man would be his slave forever.

In the conception of the artist, the devil had just moved his queen and announced a checkmate in four moves. The young man's hand hovers over his rook; his face paled with amazement. There was no hope. He had lost, the devil had won and he was his slave forever.

The painting hung in an art gallery for years. Chess players from all over the world viewed the painting and they all agreed with the thought of the artist that the devil had won. But there was one chess player that had studied the painting and was not convinced. He knew that there was only one person that could convince him that the artist had put on canvas a certain win. The chess player was Paul Morphy of New Orleans. Morphy was brought to Cincinnati to view the painting.

Morphy stood before the painting, 5 minutes, 10 minutes, 20 minutes, 30 minutes. He was all concentration. He lifted and lowered his hands as, if imagination, he made and eliminated moves. Suddenly his hand paused and then he shouted at the picture as if it were alive, "Young man, make that move. That's the move!"

To the amazement of all, he discovered a combination that the artist had not considered. A combination of moves that made the young man the winner.

11. The world, the flesh, and the devil may claim the victory, but in Christ Jesus we can be the victorious one.

1. The Foes That He Faced!
2. The Fight That He Fought!
3. THE FAME THAT HE FOUND!
1. We read in verse 24-25, "These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and had the name among the three mighties. Behold, he was honorable among the thirty..."

2. Before all this happen Benaiah was not all that eminent or prominent, but because of what Benaiah did, he won a name for himself. He defeated 3 foes and we could say that over-night a star was born. He was as well known as the three chiefs of David and was esteemed among the elite forces of David. He was a man that became famous and it all had to do with him slaying the 3 foes that he faced.

3. This was his only claim to fame but there is something significant about the fame he earned. What did the victories that brought him fame mean?

A. WHAT IT MEANT TO THE REPUTATION OF HIS FATHER.

1. We read in verse 22 that his father, Jehoiada, was a man with a reputation himself. We read that he was a "valiant" man. The word "valiant" indicates that he was a virtuous man. He was known as a man of character, integrity, and morals.

2. He was also known as a man, "who had done many acts." His father was not only respected and revered for the kind of person he was, but also for the many mighty things he had done.

3. It is interesting that the name of Benaiah is always associated with his father. We read in verse 22, "Benaiah the son of Jehoiada," and also on verse 24, "Benaiah the son of Jehoiada." Because of the reputation of his father, Benaiah constantly lived under shadow of his father's name.

4. But like father like son, Benaiah followed in his father's footsteps. He like his father was respected and revered. His father had earned a name that was honorable and Benaiah did nothing to disgrace the name of his father.

5. If Benaiah had been defeated by either of his foes, someone no doubt would have said, "He was not the man his father was." Because he was victorious, no doubt someone said, "He is a chip off the old block. He is just like his father." His fame meant much to the name of his father.
6. As believers, one thing that we should constantly fear is that we would bring 
disgrace to our heavenly Father. There have been many that fell victim to the world, 
flesh, and the devil and brought shame to the name of the Lord Jesus.

7. A young girl was out one night with some friends and they were trying to get her to 
drink. She repeatedly refused and finally one friend said, "Why want you take a drink? 
Are you afraid your parents will find out and hurt you?" She replied, "No, I am afraid 
my parents will find out and I will hurt them."

8. Paul declared in Philippians 1:20, "According to my earnest expectation and my 
hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed." Paul was saying that one of the goals of his 
life was that he would do nothing that would be either embarrassing to him or his 
Lord.

9. May God help us all to be victorious for Jesus Sake.

B. WHAT IT MEANT TO HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS KING.

1. We read in verse 25 that "David set him over his guard." Because he slew his foes, 
David honored him by giving him the position of being over his guard. Notice, it does 
not say "over his guards," but "over his guard." He became David's own personal 
bodyguard.

2. Wherever David went, Benaiah was right by his side. Whatever David was doing, 
Benaiah was right there with him. He was brought into a position that brought him 
into daily contact the king.

3. Those who enjoy the blessings of daily fellowship with the King of Kings are those 
who are victorious in the daily battles with the world, the flesh, and the devil.

4. What Benaiah enjoyed would have never been experienced if he had been defeated 
and overcome. What eventually became his would have been forfeited.
5. There is too much to lose to allow the world, the flesh, and the devil to pull us away and pull us down.

6. May God help us all to be like Benaiah.