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Adventure Camp Bible Study 2019
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Mighty Men and Women of Valor

*Note: **Red font** is an interactive question for the audience.*

Intro

Thank you Mr. _____. Morning everyone!

As you've heard, the theme for Adventure Camp this year is "Mighty Men and Women of God."

The topic this morning is "mighty men and women of... **valor.**"

Question: "Valor." Do you know what valor means? It's not the most common word. [Take answers]

Answer: Great courage in the face of danger, especially in battle. Main synonym is "brave."

SPS: My purpose is to explain the word valor and how it's used in the Bible. Then I'll explain two ways that we can become mighty men and women of valor.

Body

Valor in the Bible

Used 39 times in the NKJV, and only in the OT.

Every instance is "men of valor" or "man of valor." Many times, it is "*mighty* men of valor." It never refers to women.

It's always referring to warriors. Men who fought in literal battles. Physical battles. Example... Josh. 8:2-4 they were brave men of war.

David

1 Sam. 16:18

Do you remember the story of David? **What did he do in his life that made him a mighty man of valor?**

Enemies trying to kill him

Face Goliath and killed him

Fought bears and lions

Led armies in battle

The Bible tells the stories of many men and women of valor. **Who are some of them?** (David, Abraham, Sarah, Esther, Stephen, Paul, Jesus)

Who is your favorite person of valor? Man or woman.

How do we relate to these stories *today*?

We aren't facing *physical danger* like many people did in the Bible. It's a little different today. We might in the future.

How do we relate to being valorous like people in the Bible in our modern lives?

1) To become mighty men and women of valor, we need to sense the danger.

To be men and women of valor we need to sense the danger. That's the first step.

What are some of the dangers we face today as Christians?

One of the biggest dangers is... Safety. (sounds a little opposite doesn't it)

Prosperity. Wealth. Relative peace.

What does that lead to?

Complacency. Laziness. We're going to call it laziness. – VERY DANGEROUS

Rev. 3:15-17, 19 This is one of the greatest dangers we face.

The danger we face today is much more subtle than fighting a bear or Goliath, or preaching the gospel despite groups of people trying to stone you to death (Paul).

The danger we face is complacency. Laziness. Prosperity in a very blessed country and a very blessed church. Relative peace and great wealth (compared to people throughout history).

We have camps to go to. Spokesman club. Very enjoyable, gorgeous locations for the Feast. Lots of friends. You go to Harris Teeter and the food is beautiful and colorful and abundant. Online Bible studies. Magazines, booklets, YouTube sermons and other videos at the push of a button.

Deut. 8:11-20 Israel was wealthy and became self-reliant.

Mr. Weston has been repeating something that's very important and we need to think about how it applies to our own life:

The Bible shows that at the end of the age, when the storm clouds are gathering, that's when people are asleep! [quote?]

How can we be men and women of valor (bravery) if we don't even sense the danger? Remember that valor is the quality of being strong in the face of danger. Being brave.

A huge part of this danger is the enemy – Satan.

Eph. 6:12 We don't wrestle against flesh and blood, but principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this age.

He wants us to fall asleep and to be lazy. We're easier to defeat when we're lazy, when we're far from God.

We all go through trials, even now. Some are small, some are medium and some can be pretty big.

But the big battle is still ahead.

What do we need to do now, before the big battle?

2) To become mighty men and women of valor, we need to have a sense of urgency.

We have to have a sense of urgency in our spiritual lives.

Matt. 5:6 We must hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Story of Mr. Whitaker in the desert.

Matt. 11:12 We must fight for the kingdom!

We cannot be men and women of valor (bravery) if we are lazy and unprepared. I've been listening to a book written by a Navy SEAL. It's incredible what those guys go through to prepare. To be highly trained and ready for any situation. They have a sense of urgency in their preparation. Then, when the actual battle comes, they can be men of valor because they have worked hard to prepared.

The Bible talks about not being asleep. Not being a sluggard. Not being lazy.

Matt. 26:45 I often think about this passage. Jesus was praying His heart out because He had a huge sense of urgency! Even though His disciples were super tired, He still said, "why are you sleeping?!"

Christ had an urgency.

Are you sleeping?

Do we have urgency when we pray each day? Or do we squeeze in prayer while driving most days?

Do we have urgency in our Bible study?

Do we have a sense of urgency in overcoming sin?

TW Magazine July/Aug 2019: *Then Comes Sudden Destruction* by Mr. Weston:

“The Apostle Paul warns us all: ‘And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.’ (Rom. 13:11) Are you awake and ready?”

In other words... do *you* have a sense of urgency?

Conclusion

The Bible talks a lot about mighty men and women of valor. It's used a lot, especially in the Old Testament within the stories of wars and battles.

It's closest synonym is brave.

Are you a mighty man or woman of valor? Are you brave?

To become one, or to become more valorous, remember to sense the danger.

Also, remember to have a sense of urgency.

• Questions in remaining time:

- What does it mean to be men and women of valor?
- Do you feel danger in your life now? Spiritual danger? Or do you feel comfortable? Safe?
- What can we do to sense the danger?
- What can we do to have greater urgency?