

Scripture Reference: 2 Samuel 11:6-17

Date: November 11, 2012

Title: "Uriah, the Veteran"

Focus: What Uriah's teaches about being a soldier of God.

Intro:

1. There are occurrences in life that prove formative upon who a person becomes. Military service is one of them. It alters who a person is and the direction their life takes.
2. In this way it is similar to a relationship with God. As a matter of fact, the two have a number of similarities (a person is under command, values and priorities external to people shape them, they are engaged in warfare, etc.)
3. With this in mind, what can Uriah the veteran teach us about being a soldier in God's army?

Body:

Uriah the Soldier

- He was in the army of Israel.
- At this time he was encamped at Rabbah, which is modern Amman, Jordan. The city was part of the Amorite kingdom.
- Jerusalem to Rabbah is about 43 miles - east, northeast.
- The Old and New Testaments use military imagery when speaking of God and His kingdom. He is "*The LORD of Hosts*" (Ps 46:7), which literally is "YHWH of the army." Believers are told to put on the "*armor of God*" (Eph. 6:10-18).

Like Anyone with Military Experience, it Shaped Uriah

- Military training, to some degree, shapes every person who experiences it. It may influence the way they do things, the way they think; it may place their life on an entirely different track.
- That influence can be negative or positive. It may be large or a small. They may be conscious of its influence or not.

Uriah's Military Service Provided for his Character to be Seen.

- Grant, MacArthur, and Patton, are names that would be unknown were it not for their service.
- War was the opportunity for their strengths to be seen.
- The army provided similar contexts for Uriah:

It took him away from his family. - How did he handle this?

It placed him in danger. - How did he handle this?

It brought him into contact with others who helped develop him. - What was their influence?
"*My lord Joab and the servant of my lord [fellow soldiers]*" (v. 11).

- What resulted was Uriah is listed as one of the king's 37 *mighty men*, who had accomplished great military deed (2 Sam 23:39).

- It revealed his dedication to YHWH, the nation, and his fellow soldiers. All of these he put before himself (NOTE: v. 11).

- Uriah is in contrast to David who in this situation put himself first.

When he should have been at war, he was home enjoying himself. (11:1)

He was not in danger, but enjoying luxury.

He was meeting people, but not the sort that helped him.

He did not deny himself, choosing himself over his God, his people, and his soldiers.

- Believers can learn a lesson from Uriah:

- They are part of something larger than themselves.

- Being part of God's Kingdom shapes the disciple, not the other way around.

- Unfamiliar situations (out of our comfort zones) and danger reveal character, strengths, weaknesses, and growing edges. But above all, they bring opportunity to glorify to God.

2 Timothy 2:4 "No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier."

Closing:

1. Being a follower of Jesus is being in service to God. It may or may not be pleasant. It may take you away from family and place you among strangers. It may even be dangerous.
2. These experiences reveal your character, for the purpose of allowing His to be developed in you.