



Building Wholehearted Disciples of Jesus



**Bloodstained Allies**

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Series: WorshipperWarrior

## Bloodstained Allies

**David's Situation: A love for another brother who deeply cares for him, Jonathan.**

- All of us will go through times of shame and betrayal.
- We will need some allies in our life.
- If you plan to do great things with your life, you will need bloodstained allies.

### Distinctives of Bloodstained Allies (1 Samuel 18~22)

#### 1. Hearts knit Together with the Same Cause (1 Samuel 18:1)

***<sup>1</sup> Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.***

- Jonathan is Saul's son and destined for the throne.
- David is Saul's armor bearer and General fighting for the throne.
- Jonathan and David go to the same church with the same vision, the victory of Israel over all her enemies.
- Jonathan and David are both worshippers and warriors.
- Elijah had Elisha.
- Jesus had Peter, James and John.
- Paul had Barnabas, Timothy and Silas.

#### 2. Covenant Relationship (1 Samuel 18:2-4)

***<sup>2</sup> Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore. <sup>3</sup> Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. <sup>4</sup> And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.***

- Probably the most undervalued aspects of the Christian walk is the importance of friendships in our life.

- Eugene Peterson writes, “Friendship is a much underestimated aspect of spirituality. It’s every bit as significant as prayer and fasting. Like the sacramental use of water and bread and wine, friendship takes what’s common in human experience and turns it into something holy.”
- A covenant relationship is as sacred as prayer and fasting!
- Jesus has given us a covenantal relationship and we need covenantal relationships.
- My story of walking and a fire pit...

### **3. Defending the Reputation of the Other (1 Samuel 19:1-8)**

- David is now a fugitive from Saul—from hero to zero in a few months!
- Jonathan is willing to risk his life for his love for his friend.
- Jonathan chooses to believe in David when no one else does—it is about believing the best and watching the back of the other.
- Telling truth in the midst of falsehood.

### **4. Bloodstained—Identify and Suffer with each other’s Pain and Shame (chapter 20 and 22)**

- Men who would have never identified with David just a few weeks before are not willing to rally to him.
- It is interesting that the men who had fought with David against the Philistines have suddenly abandoned David to cater to the wishes of Saul and get their paycheck.
- Proverbs 28:21 “Men will transgress for a loaf of bread.” The man who pays the bills calls the shots! The man who receives the paycheck will listen to anything.
- And now a bunch outlaws are rallying to David?

What is it that draws these men to David? Why do they come? Samuel writes to emphasize their desperate state—they were malcontents, failures, the desperate. What is curious is that they are men who can identify with David. The allies of Adullam are men just like David. They get it. They understand the plight of David.

Just days before, they would have never identified with anything about David. This blessed son of Jesse; rock star; MMA Goliath slaying World Champion; son-in-law to the King of Israel. There is nothing about David that these bankrupt, indebted, thieves could have related to. But now, David has suddenly become one with them.

David is one of them. He has nothing. He has lost everything. He is in distress, in debt and discontented. David is the captain of all their problems, all they have lost. David would never have picked any of these guys at the pick up baseball game a week ago. But now, his life is their life.

That's what allies are. Allies are men who are vulnerable and broken... together! Allies are a group of ragamuffin men who love each other. The allies at Adullam were a gang of beat up men who know they had nothing to bring to the table in and of themselves. They have nothing and anyone looking in would say, they *are* nothing.

But they have everything! Allies are men who are mutually desperate for God, for a Captain, for a purpose. The allies of Adullam know that David has what they need. There is something about David that they all long for. They want David because David wants God!

This is what we all need. We all need allies of Adullam. We desperately need men who will rally to the love of God as brothers. We were made for relationship. We men have spent our lives running from such men. We have been told all our lives that being a man's man is to be independent, self made, lone rangers that can handle any problem on our own. What a lie! It does not work; it has never worked.

### **Story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer:**

- As Nazi power grew in Germany, German Pastor, Dietrick Bonhoeffer, in defiance of Hitler's edicts and even the new constitution of the German Lutheran Church, formed an underground seminary.
- This group of young men formed around him and began to study theology and life together.
- The Confessing Church was birthed under the ever watchful eye of the German SS.
- Bonhoeffer explains,

*Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. No Christian community is more or less than this. Whether it be brief...or the daily fellowship of years, Christian community is this. We belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ. What does this mean? It means, first, that a Christian needs others because of Jesus Christ. It means, second, that a Christian comes to others only through Jesus Christ. It means, third, that in Jesus Christ we have been chosen from eternity, accepted in time, and united for eternity.*

### **Story of William Wilberforce:**

- William Wilberforce is most famous for his tireless work through British Parliament to abolish the slave trade.
- But he was a bundle of visionary energy as he made it his passion to not only destroy the slave trade but to build up the morals of society in Great Britain.
- In addition to his abolition work, he was consistently involved in church work that included the Church Missionary Society and the sending of missionaries to India and Africa, the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Proclamation Society Against Vice and Immorality, the School Society, the Sunday School Society, the Bettering Society, the Vice Society and others. His public philanthropic efforts were many, including relieving the suffering of the manufacturing poor, and French refugees and foreigners in distress. He made major financial contributions to at least seventy such societies, many of them bearing his name as an officer. History records Wilberforce as having been active in numerous reform movements, which included reform in hospital care, fever institutions, asylums, infirmaries, refugees and penitentiaries. He supported religious publications and education, especially the schools of Hannah More, a close friend and leading reformer of British education.
- But none of this could have been possible without his bloodstained allies, the Clapham Sect or also known as the Clapham Seven who supported and organized his vision.

- For example, it was Wilberforce's circle of friends who shared his deep faith in Christ, particularly Hannah More, who encouraged him to write a "manifesto" of what had taken place in his life and what he regarded as the essentials of the faith. The lengthy title was A Practical View of the Prevailing Religious System of Professed Christians in the Higher and Middle Classes in This Country Contrasted with Real Christianity. The book was an immediate success without precedent.
- With the defeat of his motion for the abolition in 1789, Wilberforce and his closest friend, Henry Thornton, called together such a group around themselves. The common bond that held this "Clapham Sect" together was the desire to apply their faith in Jesus Christ to personal, social, political, national and international matters. The group made no claim to be theologians, yet they were people who regarded prayer and Bible study as serious matters.
- The Clapham group believed that they were representatives of God's Kingdom on earth and the faithful stewards of all God had given them.
- Together, this Clapham fellowship sought to make the British Empire an instrument of social and moral welfare to all people. Throughout their time together, they remained remarkably committed to these goals. The labels "Clapham Sect" and the "Saints" were given to them by others, the latter by members of Parliament.
- The Clapham group's acquaintances were many in number, representing a broad cross-section of Britain's leadership. Wilberforce and his friends' organizational skills and steadfast purpose carried the Saints through many difficulties, but the fact that the Clapham fellowship "knew everyone" was very important to the movement's success. Indeed, the "Saints" loved to entertain and socialize. While Wilberforce and

Thornton lived at Palace Yard in London, they kept a virtual “open house” for members of Parliament. A unique feature of the “Clapham Sect” was the desire to live with one another, or in proximity to each other.