

There is a story that fascinates me which is recorded in the second book of Samuel, ch 23.13-17. Let me read it to you: 'During harvest time, three of the thirty chief men came down to David at the cave of Adullam, while a band of Philistines was encamped in the valley of Rephaim. At that time David was in the stronghold, and the Philistine garrison was at Bethlehem. David longed for water and said, 'Oh, that someone would get me a drink of water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem!' So the three mighty men broke through the Philistine lines, drew water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem and carried it back to David. But he refused to drink it; instead, he poured it out before the Lord. Far be it from me, O Lord, to do this! (he said) Is it not the blood of the men who went at the risk of their lives? And David would not drink it.

Now David, even though he was their king, did not order them to go get him a drink. But look how quickly they responded to his wish! They were so eager to please him that they did not care even for their own lives! David realized that this was proof of their intense love for him, and so he honored their gift by presenting it to the Lord.

Nowadays, some seem to think that there is a great difference between the Lord's wishes and the Lord's commands. Many think like the man I worked with, who said to me, essentially, that he did not care what the Lord wanted, he was just going to do what was commanded so that he would be saved. It is as if being saved stopped at baptism, but it doesn't. Salvation is being faithful unto death.

I think that there is an important point to be made here. We are either a minimum servant or a maximum servant. We either want to do just God's most direct commands, or we want to fulfill even His slightest wishes. David's three mighty men were maximum servants. The unworthy servants in Lu 17.10 who only did their duty, or only what was required of them, were minimum servants. We all need to ask ourselves the question: do we seek to do the slightest wish of God, no matter how odd it seems? Or are we like Naaman, who thought what God wanted was silly?

We should be maximum servants for our God and Father. We should serve him the way we do other people when we really want to please them. We should serve him not for the maximum benefit but as a natural result of the magnitude of our love. We must serve him cheerfully, willingly, in response to all of his wishes. What kind of servant are you tonight?