

Isaiah 42:13

The LORD will march out like a mighty man, like a warrior he will stir up his zeal; with a shout he will raise the battle cry and will triumph over his enemies.

The Warrior

There are 3 shocking words in this little verse that I need to draw your attention to today: **Mighty Man, Shout** and **Triumph**. Did you hear them? (read)

We are of course looking at Jesus the Warrior this Lent season, and this verse certainly describes Him as such. Warrior was chosen because it is a little bit strange. It is one of Jesus' rolls, it is legitimate, but we don't use it very often.

But here, Jesus the Warrior is called a **Mighty Man**. That is an interesting term. It is found in another place in the Old Testament. It is the same Hebrew word used for David's Mighty Men. They were the champions of old. David's Mighty Men were undefeated. The book of Chronicles puts it in a neat way: **They were brave warriors, ready for battle and able to handle the shield and spear. Their faces were the faces of lions, and they were as swift as gazelles in the mountains** (I 12:8) **The least was a match for a hundred, and the greatest for a thousand.** (I 12:14) They were bad dudes. David's Mighty Men killed tens of thousands, and they were just men.

Jesus is the Lord Almighty, with no beginning and no end. He strikes down who He chooses without having to explain Himself to anybody, and He saves people just as mysteriously. Why would He save you? Why does He favor you above all people on earth? I don't know. It makes no human sense, but He does!

Jesus is Your Mighty Man, for no reason but His amazing grace. He who has the power to kill and condemn also has the power to save and give eternal salvation, and He has chosen to give it to you. **The Warrior** is your **Mighty Man**.

And Isaiah says that He will **Shout** the battle cry. This is strange to hear also, because we have been taught that Jesus was meek and mild and did not shout in the streets. In fact, do you know who taught us that? It was this same Isaiah, AND he wrote it in this same chapter! The famous chapter 42 of Isaiah, verse 2 contains the familiar line: **He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets.** Well which is it? You can understand why the people of Jesus' day were confused at to what the Messiah would be like. There are so many prophecies of Him. The key is to apply them to Jesus at the right time and place of His ministry.

In His teaching, Jesus did not cry out in the streets. John the Baptist did. They had contrasting styles. John was a more Old Testament type of preacher, fire and brimstone. Jesus was gentler. Jesus offered His Gospel, and many times it was rejected. And when He was rejected, Jesus did not declare a pox on that city, He simply told His disciples to brush the dust of that town off their feet and go on to the next one. The Father will take care of any poxes or retribution. Christians are to follow in the Savior's footsteps and gently offer salvation in His name and let the Spirit change hearts rather than our volume or ingenious arguments.

On the cross however, Jesus' silence was broken. Now many of us are familiar with the 7 words from the cross, and most of them were spoken softly. But there was one that Jesus shouted for all to hear. He even took a drink from that putrid wine-vinegar to wet His lips and loosen His throat so that all could hear Him declare, **"It is finished!"** (John 19:30)

There is our battle cry. It is finished. The payment for sins is finished. God's anger at you and your life and your soul is finished. The work to get us into heaven is finished. Your salvation is won. Heaven is assured. Every sin that you have ever committed and will ever commit has been paid for in full by the suffering, blood and death of Jesus Christ, God's Son, Your Savior. That is something worth shouting about.

For our great **Warrior** has **Triumphed** over His enemies. (read) Jesus has conquered sin. Sin no longer condemns us. Unbelief will send many to hell, but sin has been totally washed away. Jesus has also conquered the devil. The devil has no power over you. He can throw temptations and troubles at you, but he cannot tear your faith from you. If you lose your faith, it is your own fault. The Lord did not get fooled by the devil, the devil is conquered. But the book of Revelation talks about the last enemy to be defeated, and that enemy is death.

Death is the one thing in our future yet. Death is as certain as taxes, but unlike taxes, each of us only has one death to face, while we all face many taxes. And I dare say, that one death is much easier to face than taxes, for our **Warrior-Champion, our Mighty Man**, the God-Man, Jesus Christ, has taken care of that last enemy also, by His own death and resurrection.

Jesus conquered death. For on the third day from His own death, He walked out of the grave proving His victory. As Paul wrote: **He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification** (Romans 4); guaranteeing also our resurrection. Death is nothing now but a sleep for the child of God. Jesus' little lambs fall asleep in His arms and they wake up in eternal paradise.

That is a Savior worth following. That is a Warrior worth hailing as your Champion. Jesus is a God worthy of our glory and praise, world without end.