

David's Mighty Men

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Introduction: How does God call and mold men?

- A. We will examine one of the great men that God used for His purposes, King David.
 - 1. The only one that more is written about in the Bible is Jesus Himself.
 - 2. Towards the end of David's life God describes him as "the man raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel"
(2 Sam 23:1)
- B. God recognizes a group of men that are described as "David's mighty men."
 - 1. God wants us to know that David's work was not accomplished alone.
 - 2. In many ways we will see how Jesus, the son of David and the Son of God, in His ministry and today calls and uses "mighty men."

I. The calling of the mighty men

- A. The Bible says little about how these men came to follow David.
 - 1. David was one who was well traveled and well known.
 - 2. He often found Himself in hard spots and could be described as facing a "no-win scenario."
 - 3. In these situations there were those who gathered to him that would be considered "out of step" with fitting in that society. **(1 Sam 22:1-2)**
 - 4. Jesus found His followers from such "rejects." **(1 Cor 1:26-29)**
- B. The common attraction of these men was a faith in God.
 - 1. I believe that these men were attracted to David the same was that Jonathan became a close friend of David's.
 - 2. Before Jonathan ever heard of David he stood by faith. **(1 Sam 14:1, 6)**
 - 3. When Jonathan saw the faith of David and David his, they became friends.
(1 Sam 17:57-18:1)
 - 4. Where did Jesus find His followers? **(Jn 1:29, 35, Mt 3:1-4)**

II. The qualities of the mighty men

- A. They had a strong faith that caused them to be courageous.
 - 1. Eleazar attacked when others were fearful. His sword stuck to his hand after the battle! His courage won the entire battle for the Lord. **(2 Sam 23:9-10)**
 - 2. Shammah stood in a field when other fled. **(2 Sam 23:11-12)**
 - 3. These men did not become mighty men because they inherited a position of buttered up to someone.
 - 4. The followers of Christ have learned to take a stand and are not afraid of crossing others. **(Mt 12:30; Titus 1:9-11)**
- B. They understood the meaning of love and loyalty.
 - 1. Genuine love does not wait on commands. **(2 Sam 23:13-17)**
 - 2. This was a very difficult time in David's life. No doubt he looked back to his youth and remembered "the way things were."
 - 3. David understood the mighty gift that was given him and thus offered it to God.
 - 4. Must we wait for a command? **(1 Cor 16:1-2; 2 Cor 8:8-9)**
 - 5. Why do you attend? Give? Study God's word?

- C. They were willing to follow when it went against their reason and emotions.
 - 1. Abishai was willing to follow David into the camp of Saul! **(1 Sam 26:6-7)**
 - 2. It seemed right to kill Saul right then. He would even attribute this decision to God. **(1 Sam 26:7-12)**
 - 3. He learned an important lesson that day.

III. The power of David's leadership

- A. David leadership was essential in the unity and development of these men. **(2 Sam 18:3)**
 - 1. How important is a coach to a team? **(2 Sam 21:15-17)**
 - 2. Which is more important to a church, a preacher or an elder?
- B. There is great power in the example of one man. **(2 Sam 23:16-17)**
 - 1. When David offered the water to God they saw his love for them by his love for God. There was no doubt where David stood.
 - 2. It is this kind of leadership that inspires and pushes others to become all that they can be for the Lord. You cannot accomplish this in a conference room and meet with a few people.
- C. What have we seen in our leader, Jesus Christ? **(1 Pt 2:21-25; Rom 5:6-8)**
 - 1. What did Jesus do with these simple men? **(Acts 4:13)**
 - 2. He turned the "sons of thunder" into the disciple of love. **(Mk 3:17; Lk 9:54-56)**
 - 3. They saw Jesus turn to Jerusalem and then tell them to put up their swords. **(Lk 9:51, Mt 26:35)**

IV. The shortcomings of the mighty men and David

- A. David was not able to keep these men from sin.
 - 1. Abishai gave in to the influence of bitterness and family influence when he was away from David. He murdered Abner with his brother Joab. **(2 Sam 3:30)**
 - a. Some would do well to keep a distance from family that counsels in revenge and bitterness.
 - b. How many men have gone home and then changed their "thinking" after this kind of council?
 - 2. David did not excuse or overlook this matter. **(2 Sam 3:31-32, 39)**
 - a. There was no "pass" because he was a mighty man! **(Ezk 33:12)**
 - b. We see this kind of action when men have fought together.
- B. David let his heart stray into sin. **(2 Sam 11:3-5)**
 - 1. Sin will cause you to do crazy things. Satan loves to catch you in a "snare."
 - 2. Uriah was a man of principle and faith.
 - 3. David gave orders that led to his death. **(2 Sam 11:14-17)**
 - 4. What did Uriah think of David? Where else do we read about him? **(2 Sam 23:39)**

Conclusion: We need men and women to become "mighty men."

- A. It is the powerful example of Jesus that move us to stand. **(Eph 6:10; 3:16)**
- B. Are you on God's list?

(Adapted from David Hartsell)