

***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. At 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. Jesus, the son of David, also 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 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.”