

Week Seven: David's Mighty Men

June 22-28, 2008

Historically, great leaders do well in large, partly because they are surrounded with great people in key positions. A great leader will attract the very best people who want to give all they have to support a shared ideology. A great American president will have a highly qualified cabinet. Michael Jordan could not win a championship by himself—he needed other great players. In David's time he was supported by great military men from his commanders down to the foot soldiers.

As we read this week's passages we will see how God blessed David by providing for him the "support staff" he needed to carry out God's will for the Israelite nation.

If you wish to receive The Vine via e-mail each week you may register online at www.kentwoodcommunitychurch.com/thevine by following the directions listed there. If you have any questions or comments on The Vine, please let us know at thevine@kcconline.org.

*First Encounter***Read just 2 Samuel 23:1**

What characteristics does the writer of this introduction credit to David? How do you think David acquired these attributes?

What do you think these characteristics of David meant to the Israelites, especially those who served him?

Now read 2 Samuel 23:1-7

In verse 3, what are the two good ways someone should lead? What are the results in verse 4? What metaphors are used to indicate a ruler is ruling in a godly way.

What does the passage say about the fate of oppressive leaders?

Ponder the possible references or meanings of the words "light" and "brightness" in verse 4. List your thoughts and indicate if they are literal or metaphoric references.



Prayer Reflection: Reflect on your own positions of influence in your family, your church, your work and your community. Pray for a proper fear of the Lord and that you will have godly influence on everyone you interact with today.

Second Encounter

Read 2 Samuel 23:8-17

Who are the three special mighty men and what are their specific notable accomplishments? What do you think these men and their exploits meant to the Israelite people?






What kind of social status do you think “the three” received from the people? How would that compare to those to whom we give “rock star” status today?

List a few people who are considered mighty in today’s culture. List a few people you consider mighty. What puts someone on your list?

In verse 13-17, what was David doing and what was his yearning? Was he really asking for it? What did the mighty men do in response to David’s words? Why did they do it? What was David’s response to their accomplishment?

What does the mighty men’s response to David’s wish reveal about their character?

Prayer Reflection: When you serve, are you completely satisfied by doing the act of service or are you only fulfilled by the results? Which is better, the acts of service or the results? Discuss with the Lord why you serve (or why you don’t serve). Pray for opportunities to serve.



Third Encounter

Read 2 Samuel 23:18-39

What are the special attributes of Abishar?

How was Benaiah revered and what was his reward?

Try to count the various different families or locations noted about the mighty men listed in verses 24-39. Note who is listed in verse 39. Also note that Eliam in verse 34 was Bathsheba's father.

What do you think brought all these men together to fight with David? Did they all start as mighty men? Some were certainly present at 1 Samuel 22:1-2. How did these men develop into mighty men?


Prayer Reflection: Are you serving the Lord as part of a larger team? Do you consider your service mighty? Pray that you may be growing into a mighty man or woman of God.





Small Group Guide

NOTE: This guide is provided to help Small Group Leaders take their groups through the passage. The following questions are suggestions. Feel free to add to these questions or reword them as you prayerfully prepare for your small group.

1. Read 2 Samuel 23:1-7. Note that this looks and feels like a psalm. What does this “psalm” say about the relationship between David and God?
 2. Verse three says, “when he rules in the fear of God ...” (NIV). How does the fear of the Lord affect good leadership? How does the lack of the fear of the Lord affect leadership? What is your fear factor with respect to the Lord?
 3. Think about verse 5 in relation to your family. What parts of verse 5 can you pray for your family? Take some time to do this.
 4. When David poured out the water, was that an insult? Why or why not? You are one of the mighty men who went to get the water. Explain why you went. How do you feel after David poured out the water. How might David be honoring you in this account?
- 

5. When considering acts of service or the results, which is more important?
As a servant, how should you feel about the results?

6. What an honor to be listed as one of David's mighty men. Do you aspire to be a mighty man or woman of God? What can you be doing now to develop those gifts?

Written by The Vine Team.
Email thevine@kccconline.org
with comments or questions.
We would love to hear what
you think about it. We are also
looking for people willing to
help create The Vine. If this
interests you, let us know.

