

BECOMING A MIGHTY MAN OF VALOR (A Not-So Overnight Process) Lesson 1

Our God is a God of promotion and increase. God never wants to leave us in the condition He found us at the time of our salvation. He wants to take us and make something great out of each and every one of us. This is a study of how David was able to take miserable men and make them fierce warriors. Their growth from timidity to ferocity is a great pattern for us today.

KING DAVID

One of David's greatest helps were his Mighty Men of Valor. There are 17 references in the Bible to David's men. These men helped David because he had helped them. They owed David their life and livelihood and, as a result, they gave David their heart. But David's Mighty Men of Valor did not start off that way, and neither will you. God has called every Christian to become a great person of valor. Let us learn how to become a great champion of valor from the example of David and his men.

The Catalog of David's Mighty Men:

- Joab- David's Captain; Took the stronghold of Jebus by himself. (Jebus is also known as Zion. It is where Solomon built the Temple. It is where the Heavenly Jerusalem will touch down.) David set Joab over the host. He became Chief and Captain.
- Adino- Killed 800 in one battle with a spear.
- Eleazar- Killed Philistines all day until his hand clave to his sword.
- Shammah- Single-handedly battled Philistines in a lentil field – and won.
- Abishai- Slew 300 with a spear. He also killed 18,000 at the battle of Edom.
- Jehoida- Slew 2 lion-like men. He killed a lion in a pit on a snowy day. He fought an Egyptian giant (8'8") and slew him with his own spear. David set him over his guard.
- Uriah the Hittite- This man learned honor and fearless cunning from David. He was fearsomely loyal to David, even to his own death. David betrayed him through adultery and murder.

STEPS TO GREATNESS

Step 1- Find A Captain

- **And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented (*bitter of soul*), gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.**
1 Samuel 22:2

It is impossible to be great on your own! Every one of us needs someone to help raise us up in life. The call of God on David's life began a work of leadership in the lives of those men who joined themselves to him. When these men joined David, they had nothing to offer. You need a captain the most when you have nothing to offer. These 400 men included

members of David's family. They submitted not just themselves to David's leadership, but their families as well.

Step 1a- Be Sure Your Captain Is Also Submitted

- **And the prophet Gad said unto David, Abide not in the hold; depart, and get thee into the land of Judah. Then David departed, and came into the forest of Hareth.**
1 Samuel 22:5
- **... I saw the son of Jesse [David] coming to Nob [the city of priests], to Ahimelech [the priest] the son of Ahitub. ¹⁰And he inquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.**
1 Samuel 22:9b-10

David was a submitted man. First to his father then to King Saul. Even as he was being pursued by King Saul, David remained a submitted man. He was submitted to the God-ordained spiritual authority in Israel from the prophet to the priest. He knew that spiritual submission was a vital key to maintaining his life and constant victory when the enemy was moving against him. Make sure your captain is submitted to someone greater than himself. Only arrogant and self-deceived men lead on their own.

Step 2- Trust In The Safety Of Having A Captain

- **Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard.**
1 Samuel 22:23

Saul slew all of the LORD's priests for unknowingly helping David. Only Abiathar escaped from the sword of Saul and made his way to David. A captain will help keep you safe from the enemy. A captain has experience when you don't. A captain can usually fix your problems faster than you can.

Step 3- Trust Your Captain To Hear From God

- **Therefore David inquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.**
1 Samuel 23:2

Be confident in knowing that leadership is anointed to hear from heaven for the direction of the ministry and even for your life. Leadership is anointed to hear from heaven in order to do what they are called to do.

Step 4- Be Honest With Your Captain

- **And David's men said unto him, Behold, we be afraid here in Judah: how much more then if we come to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?**
1 Samuel 23:3

Keep an open line of communication with your captain. David's men were scared while in their comfort zone, then there came an assignment to leave their comfort zone and go to



war. They trusted their captain enough to reason with him and express their weaknesses. Their captain never condemned them for their honesty and openness. Having a captain is not having a dictator, nor are they clairvoyant. They need as much intel as possible. Don't operate in the shadows. Bring issues into the light to get maximum assistance.

Step 5- See Step 3

- **Then David inquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; and I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.
1 Samuel 23:4**

David took into consideration his men's fear and sought the LORD again for direction. God returned the same answer. Sometimes the assignment will not change, so we'll have to. Never forget that the whole reason for having a captain in your life is to accomplish change you could not possibly achieve on your own.

Find your captain. Stay faithful. And advance this Kingdom!!

BECOMING A MIGHTY MAN OF VALOR (A Not-So Overnight Process) Lesson 2

Thus far our study has revealed that David's Might Men didn't start off mighty. Rather, they started off as a group of fearful societal rejects. However, as they gathered to a captain and followed his lead, he was able to impart things into them they would have never developed on their own—courage and victory!

To review the first six steps to becoming a mighty man of valor:

1. Find a captain. Someone greater than you at the Kingdom.
 - 1a. Make sure your captain is also submitted to leadership.
2. Trust in the safety of having a captain.
3. Trust your captain to hear from God.
4. Be honest with your captain in times of weakness and fear.
5. See step 3: Trust your captain to hear from God.

Step 6- Do It Afraid

- **So David and his men went to Keilah, and fought with the Philistines, and brought away their cattle, and smote them with a great slaughter. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.**
1 Samuel 23:5

God did not change His commands to accommodate their fear. His plans stood, and the men had to rise in order to obey the orders. Ultimately, they were victorious. God knew their potential all along, though given the choice, they would have remained in hiding. Being stretched and inconvenienced is evidence of a leader's influence upon your life. Those without leaders never experience either.

These first six steps are critical to overcoming fear. These may be the most uncomfortable of all the steps because they occur while we are still wading in the waters of fear. Unfortunately, many Christians will never leave these waters. Don't be one of those. Rise up and do it afraid!

Step 7- Expect Escalation By Association

- **And he [Saul] came to the sheepcotes by the way, where was a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet: and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave.**
1 Samuel 24:3

It is one thing to go and fight Israel's enemies and win. It is another thing to have Israel's king begin to hunt you down. By association alone, David's men were in danger. Simply put, having a captain was becoming hazardous to their health and welfare. When Saul unknowingly wandered into their midst, David's men remained quietly hidden in the cave for either one of two reasons: fear or respect. I believe it was fear (400 courageous men



could have easily taken one elderly king while he was using the bathroom). Will you remain faithful to your captain even when your association with him causes you duress and hardship?

Step 8- Don't Forget You're A Servant

- **So David stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. But Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way.**
1 Samuel 24:7

David's men felt comfortable enough around him to give him advice. In this case, the advice involved assassinating King Saul. David addressed his men (here, they are called servants). Though these men were men of war (in the making), the Bible calls them servants. You must never forget that no matter how big you get, you are still a servant. You must always be eager to hear instructions, corrections, wisdom, and commands and carry them out . . . with a right heart; for the right thing with the wrong heart is still the wrong thing.

Step 9- Confidence Arises As Experience Is Earned

- **And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff.**
1 Samuel 25:13

You only gird a sword for one reason—war! And when every man is commanded to put on a sword, there can really be only one reason—war! But this time there is no indication of fear; no questioning, no complaining, no excuse-making. In this verse, we are beginning to really see the benefits and changes that come with having a captain. Make it this far in the process and you'll see the same benefits.

Step 10- Look For Opportunities To Be With Your Captain

- **Then answered David and said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, brother to Joab, saying, Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp? And Abishai said, I will go down with thee.** 1 Samuel 26:6

David's men had grown from hiding from Saul to sneaking into the middle of his encampment while he slept. This camp contained 3,000 men. David wanted someone to go with him. Abishai (the slayer of 300 with a spear, and 18,000 at the battle of Adino) offered to go with David. Your captain wants someone to go with him as well. Abishai went on to be one of David's mightiest men.

How far have you made it in this process thus far? Are you willing to be changed? Are you getting the most out of your captain? Do you even have a captain?

BECOMING A MIGHTY MAN OF VALOR (A Not-So Overnight Process) Lesson 3

To review the first ten steps to becoming a mighty man of valor:

1. Find a captain. Someone greater than you at the Kingdom.
 - 1a. Make sure your captain is also submitted to leadership.
2. Trust in the safety of having a captain.
3. Trust your captain to hear from God.
4. Be honest with your captain in times of weakness and fear.
5. See step 3: Trust your captain to hear from God.
6. Do it afraid.
7. Expect escalation by association.
8. Don't forget you're a servant.
9. Confidence arises as experience is earned.
10. Look for opportunities to be with your captain.

Step 11- Take On New Enemies And New Territory Together

- **And David and his men went up, and invaded the Geshurites, and the Gezrites, and the Amalekites: for those nations were of old the inhabitants of the land, as thou goest to Shur, even unto the land of Egypt. 1 Samuel 27:8**

David fled to Gath (Philistia) to escape being hunted by Saul. But he and his men did not sit dormant. They began to invade the surrounding enemy nations. This is work David would have had to do as the future king, but he took care of it when he had nothing else to do. We see that his men had become men of fearless courage and war. The captain had raised his men up from passive pushovers to offensive warriors. What a change!

Step 12- Resist Turning On Your Captain In The Hard Times

- **And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God. 1 Samuel 30:6**

Realize that there are hard times to be had while serving God. These usually aren't leadership's fault. In fact, this would be the time when leadership needs the most support. Don't be fair-weather soldiers.

Step 13- Look For Ways To Help Your Leader In Time Of Need

- **And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David. ⁸And David inquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? And he**

answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt overtake them, and without fail recover all.
1 Samuel 30:7-8

Abiathar had just lost his dad and all of his fellow priests. Now it appears he'd lost his family to the Amalekites—all due to David. But, rather than turn on David as the others spoke of doing, he helped David seek the Lord for guidance and direction. David sought God (as David was prone to do) and victory was obtained. Turning on your leader never results in any kind of victory for anyone.

Step 14- Resist The Temptation Of Pride That Comes With Success

- **And David came to the two hundred men, which were so faint that they could not follow David, whom they had made also to abide at the brook Besor: and they went forth to meet David, and to meet the people that were with him: and when David came near to the people, he saluted them. ²²Then answered all the wicked men and men of Belial, of those that went with David, and said, Because they went not with us, we will not give them ought of the spoil that we have recovered, save to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead them away, and depart. ²³Then said David, Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the LORD hath given us, who hath preserved us, and delivered the company that came against us into our hand. ²⁴For who will hearken unto you in the matter? But as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike. ²⁵And it was so from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day.**
1 Samuel 30:21-25

It seems that discipleship never ceases. This is very similar to Step 8-Don't forget you're a servant. After David's Mighty Men had learned courage, it was time to teach them humility. Here, David's men fell into the carnal trap of creating cliques, aka *tribalism, us-versus-them, or A-team and B-team*. David put a quick stop to that. Everyone's role is important. Only wicked men and men of Belial think this way. Apparently, such men were among David's disciples. We must never forget that we are trained, disciplined, and promoted to help others, not keep them down.

Step 15- Endure The Hard Times To See Times Of Promotion

- **And it came to pass after this [the death of King Saul], that David inquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the LORD said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron. ⁴And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying, That the men of Jabeshgilead were they that buried Saul.**
2 Samuel 2:1, 4

After so many years on the run, David is finally anointed king and promoted with him are the men that had shared in his hardships. These men became captains, guards, mercenaries, and executioners (the Cherethites and Pelethites). Their faithfulness in the



hard times, eating scraps in caves and forests, earned them a seat at the king's table in the king's castle.

Step 16- Enjoy Being Used Of God To Bring Rest To His People

- **For David said, The LORD God of Israel hath given rest unto his people, that they may dwell in Jerusalem for ever: 1 Chronicles 23:25**

If you will submit to a captain and allow his leadership to make and mold you, God will use you to accomplish great things in this Kingdom. The Lord gave Israel rest through David and the men he was able to train. David couldn't accomplish his work alone. He needed mighty men of valor. Will you aspire to become a modern mighty man of valor?