



## “What Would Your Leaders Do For YOU?”

2Samuel 23:8-17

**Written By Rev. Steve Chiles** ~ Not long ago I read this story about David and his mighty men in my devotions. The question God posed to me while reading it was “Are YOU a leader like that?” It made me ask some hard questions, but

questions I think all of us who want to do significant leadership ought to ask.

The first question is “Am I a leader that casts a compelling enough vision?” Vision is key to our leadership success. Vision is what draws RESOURCES. Every pastor or entrepreneur worth their salt knows this. People don’t give because they “ought” to give. They give to a vision! Rick Warren is right on when he says that we don’t have money problems, we have IDEA problems.

Vision also draws the blessing of God. You only have to look back to Numbers 14 and the story of the spies being sent into the Promised Land to see this principle at work. Twelve spies were sent in, but only two saw the possibilities. Those two, Joshua and Caleb, were the only ones of the group who got to live there. God blessed their faith in seeing what He sees...and He does the same with us.

But thirdly, vision draws other leaders. These men who were with David were STUDS! They were the best of the best, yet they wanted to be alongside of him. David gave them a cause and a compelling banner to rally behind and they were all willing to do their part. I often hear leaders complain about not having the leaders they need to get the job done. A fair question we have to ask is “Does the vision I’m casting DRAW leaders of that kind of quality?” Maybe our problem is not an issue of lack of available leadership. It might be our own anemic vision that doesn’t give them a reason to step up.

A second question this story posed to me was “Am I giving high capacity leaders the space and recognition they deserve?” These mighty men of David were better at what they did than he was at what he did! I mean; David was no slouch as a warrior. After all, there was that Goliath bully that he whipped. But these guys took on PLATOONS by themselves! But instead of minimizing their accomplishments or being fearful that one of them may have gotten more recognition than him, he embraced their victories and celebrated their courage.

Can we be honest? Many of us in leadership, especially pastors, are horribly insecure. Instead of releasing high capacity leaders, whether they’re lay leaders or staff, we often hem them in, hold them back or even run them off fearing that they’ll outgrow or outshine us somehow. What if we became their greatest cheerleaders and banner wavers instead? How many of our churches and organizations might go from good to great if we released

and celebrated these bright lights instead of trying to dim their brilliance or control their influence? Our organizations will never really fly if we're constantly clipping wings!

A third question that came to me was "Am I producing an environment that creates that kind of loyalty and devotion?" When David made the comment that he longed for a drink from the well in Bethlehem, these three mighty men risked their very lives to get it for him. THAT'S devotion!

Do the leaders your leading feel that way about you? Do they know that you LOVE them? Do they know that you NEED them? Do they know that you BELIEVE in them? Do they really know that they are more than a means to and end for you as a leader? Far too often the people that we lead feel like commodities rather than partners. David's leaders were willing to lay down their lives for him because they knew he would lay down his life for them. Do our leaders feel that way?

Our biggest challenge in leadership is not in finding the kind of leaders that can help us accomplish our goals. There are lots of "mighty men and women" out there. Our biggest challenge is in BECOMING the kind of leaders that these leaders will follow. David showed how much these three meant to him by the way he treated the drink they secured with the risk of their lives...he poured it out as an offering to God. Not because he didn't want the drink. But because he recognized he had been given a gift by his leaders that was so sacred that he felt was unworthy of their holy effort. May WE be that wise as we handle the exploits of our own mighty men!