

Great Increase in Times of Distress

How to have GREAT Greatness in the sight of God

Key to Greatness in the Sight of God

2 Sam 23:8-21

8> 1 spear – killed 800 – one single battle

20> Pit – snowy day – killed a lion

21> Stuck a giant Egyptian with his own spear

Holy Spirit recorded

Amazing – conspicuously absent – great general – **Joab**

Not mentioned – even Uriah – the Hitite – Joab's sons

Why? **Position / great exploits** – fought and won many battles – including Jeru

– does **not** have the **heart** of David-**distracted** by many things

Florence – calling purpose – not distracted – purpose compatibility

Did things **independently** – eg revenge – killed Abner – Amaza

1. Distracted with busy **activities** but not what really matters

2. Distracted with **focusing** on the wrong people

Forgive – not mean must forget

Forgive – not mean trust or entrust – kids - earned

What was the cause of **Absalom's** rebellion – Joab!

Sentimental kindness – distracted with focusing on wrong peo

David had sent Absalom on exile. Being a shepherd – he knew his sheep and child – what kind of person Absalom is

Joab – out of good heart (sentimental kindness) – stir David to bring Absalom back

As the result Joab gave Absalom the opportunity to instigate a major rebellion

Eventually – Joab had Absalom killed – against the heart of David

Fact – Absalom need not had been killed if not for the sentimental kindness of Joab

Don't take risk with lives – esp when it comes to leadership

Peter restored – not Judas – why - heart Interesting – **first** thing – when peter was restored,

Jesus entrusted - Feed **my** lamb – why?

Priority to lamb – young sheep – **new peo**
Not necessary young people but new people instead of those that had been causing troubles – move on with the new

3. Distracted with wrong **focus**

Joab never focus David – what he really wants

Colossians 1:17

17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

In Christ – all things hold together

First day of marriage – 1st year – raisings – disc kids

2 Sam 23:13-18

13 During harvest time, **three of the thirty** chief men came down to David at the cave of Adullam, while a band of Philistines was camped in the Valley of Rephaim. ... 15 David longed for water and said, "Oh, that someone would get me a drink of water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem!" 16 So the three mighty men broke through the Philistine lines, drew water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem and carried it back to David.

But he refused to drink it; instead, he poured it out before the LORD. 17 "Far be it from me, O LORD, to do this!" he said. "Is it not the blood of men who went at the risk of their lives?" And David would not drink it. **Such** **were the exploits** of the three mighty men.

400 did mighty things, 3 greatest – repeated twice – what key?

THE THREE ARE GREATEST AMONG THE 400 BECOS THEY HAVE A GREAT PASSION FOR DAVID:

How?

1. Great passion becos: They could **see** the heart of David

Why did the three take such great risk to fulfill just a wish?

v15 – **wish** – not a command Risked life

Big passion for David – can see the **HEART** of David – worthy of the best

David of cause is not God – but

1. He is God's **representative** – brought them to God's presence – they give as unto God

2. Gratitude - **Presence** of the Lord - empowers us to **step out** of our distress

ADULAM – darkest – turning point

– darkest hr – but was the beginning – great breakthrough – **400** – debt, distress,

discontented – came – transformed – key?

Vision – dreams - faith - hope

Why do we honour our parents?

Same way – **honour** parents – 1. God's **Representative** – may not be perfect

2. **Gratitude** – the most valuable – most fruitful productive char – so honour for your sake!

Ephesians 6:3

3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Galatians 6:6

6 Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor.

Same way – **tithe** not a law – why – give?

Amazingly – you been here long enough – know – we don't talk much

If you here long enough – giving not the focus – some places – 15 talk on giving bef offering

Yet people are giving **generously**

The WORLD – and those in the flesh – cannot understand – they think – you peo are hypnotized - deceived - stupid

You peo are not **STUPID** peo – you are achievers!

Why give so generously

Ans? **CHRIST** is preached and exalted

GREAT GIVERS – see the heart of Christ

Malachi 1:6-11

6 The LORD Almighty says to the priests: "A son honors his father, and a servant respects his master. I am your father and master, but where are the honor and respect I deserve? You have despised my name!

Honor – glory

Respect – fear - worship

"But you ask, 'How have we ever despised your name?'"

Despise – polluted – unclean – **worthless**

7 "You have despised my name by offering defiled sacrifices on my altar.

"Then you ask, 'How have we defiled the sacrifices?'"

"You defile them by saying the altar of the LORD deserves no respect.

You know the **RIGHT** thing to do.

When offering sacri – select the **BEST**, most **VALUABLE**, **PRIZED** lamb - **instead**

8 When you give blind animals as sacrifices, isn't that wrong? And isn't it wrong to offer animals that are crippled and diseased? NLT

Instead – look for lame, blind, sick, leaning against fence,

Grasp – race to altar – thinking Ok – God In short the **leftovers - worthless**

Old furniture, clothing, toys, leftover food – old folks rejected – own family

members rejected – pass to church

(Sometimes, it is not the old toys that the church reject, some toys may endanger small

kids – best to give cash – our staff trained in children's ministry will know what to buy for the kids)

Not the amount – wo 2 copper coins – best of what she has

Over the years – noticed – some of the most amazing givers – very ordinary

people – gave the best – choicest – freshest food – not once in a while but all the time

Even bringing the **BEST** food to the office knowing staff are so busy

8b Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?" says the LORD Almighty.

Hey – would you do it to your boss -

9 "Now implore God to be gracious to us. With such offerings from your hands, will he accept you?" -says the LORD Almighty.

Raya – some visiting impo people – dare to give old – pot of leftovers – unimaginable

10 "Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you," says the LORD Almighty, "and I will accept no offering from your hands.

12 "But you profane it by saying of the Lord's table, 'It is defiled,' and of its food, 'It is contemptible.'

What were the responsibilities of the leaders, the priests?

Notice the rebuke given to the leaders – the priests
Responsible to teach on giving and responsible to reject those that are giving their leftovers, being their priests they know their capacity

Why did God not want to accept the leftover offerings?

Why God not accept us to give leftover?
UPSET personally? No
He doesn't need the gift - Easily create the best
But when we treat God as **worthless** – or treat God's preventative as worthless – in your eyes and give the leftovers

Wont have the FAITH to receive great things from him
Receive a PROPHET – receive a prophet's reward
For our benefit – he does not want us to **harvest** leftovers
From peo related to us – our spouse, boss or children ...

11 My name will be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to my name, because my name will be great among the nations," says the LORD Almighty.

How can we have the passion to give our best?

WHY they gave their leftovers – they don't **see** the heart of God
When und heart of Christ – best of what you have
Chairs – best – house may be full
Judas – say – wrong to give the bottle of perfume – why? – no heart for Jesus – feel Jesus is not worth it – despise Jesus

Same way: Jesus said – some peo don't give to their parent – so superspiritual –

*Oh I already given to God – forget – parents are God's **representative** – give **our of grati** – most productive and fruitful charactet*

Matt 15:4-7
God says, 'Honor your father and mother,' and 'Anyone who speaks evil of father or mother must be put to death.' 5 But you say, 'You don't need to honor your parents by caring for their needs if you give the money to God instead.' 6 And so, by your own tradition, you nullify the direct commandment of God. 7 You hypocrites! NLT

God says – honor your parent
*But they say– oh don't have to – what could have given to **care** – them – given to the temple*
Tithed every little thing – missed out the weightier matters of the law
Same way – give first fruit – best – for the **HP** – God's rep – out of gratitude
For the visions and faith from the prophetic preaching of the Word

What are the areas that God is challenging you to give (not just finances)?

Not just **finance** - Told staff:
When oversee a ministry – best Think – most creative way – improve – quantity and quality

Bill Hyber: Great leaders have a **Build in quality control** - excellent spirit - **Honors** God
Seek out good ideas - 10
Bob Galvin, CEO Motorola 80's
Record breaking achievements
When in meeting – reqd directors – come ready with 100 good ideas – how to improve sales – improve quality of product
You couldn't get into the meeting unless you showed the list
To get one gd idea - need 100 mediocre ideas

1. Great passion becos: They saw the great passion of David

Why were the 3 so willing to give their best to David?

How peo come so willing risk – give even their live?

*Saw David's life – great passion **giving**: Notice - David – again gave – his life is a Life of giving – v16*
Realized what 3 given best – very natural for him to give to the Lord
The 3 became champion givers – they saw the passion of David their leader a champion giver
*Singapore – **Princess** – gave best toy Knew who behind it – giving dad – Vernon!*
David himself is a champion giver
becos – he saw – God Himself is the greatest champion giver
1 Chronicles 29:14

14 "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.
There are two major failures in David's life

In both cases, David saw how God the champion giver reverses the situation!
1. Sin with Bathseba 2. **Pride**
PRIDE – count strength army – face a serious judgment
*Not forgive and **forget** – but forget – achievements*
Sin costly – consequence – not just you suffer – others
Break hearts of many people – not just a person thing
2 Samuel 24:24

24 But the king replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."
So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them.

How did God turn around the two major sins that David committed?

Two major sins:
Adultery – God turn around – Sol – peace - beloved one – born
Pride – God turn around – land purchase – Mt Moriah – blessing to million
God **turn** – greatest weakness → greatest strength
Greatest failures – greatest opport for greatness

How was it possible?

God! - propitiation
Jesus is the sin offering:
Expiation: Jesus settled the penalty of our sin. Our sin is **covered** – Mercy Seat.
Don't uncover – look at it

Romans 3:25
25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.
Hebrews 9:5
5 Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.

Jesus is the burnt offering of our sin:

Propitiation: appease, satisfy, release favor for us before God.
1 John 2:2
2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.
Wood – gold
Fully God and fully man – why? – came as man – born in the worst – chanel 9

– no bed or clean sheets, just manure and flies in the manger
He worked as a carpenter's assistant with little wages
Accused – illegitimate – Jesus had **Reject** – betrayed? – false accused
Great? – great passion for Christ
See his heart – honour him
See his passion
When I survey, the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain, I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride
Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing, so divine

Demands my love, my life, my all”

The song was written about the testimony of a woman with 3 sons.

The 1st son went to Africa ... died in the hands of cannibals.

The 2nd son went ... died also in the hands of the natives.

The 3rd son went ... suffered the same fate as his brothers.

People asked, “Woman, do you have any regret?”

The woman replied, “Yes, I do regret ... I regret I do not have a 4th son who can lay down his life for the sake of Jesus Christ!”

Friends, the TRUTH: There is no price too great for us to pay – see heart of Jesus – greatest honor

If Jesus should ever choose that we lay down our lives for Him, it will be the greatest honor + privilege.