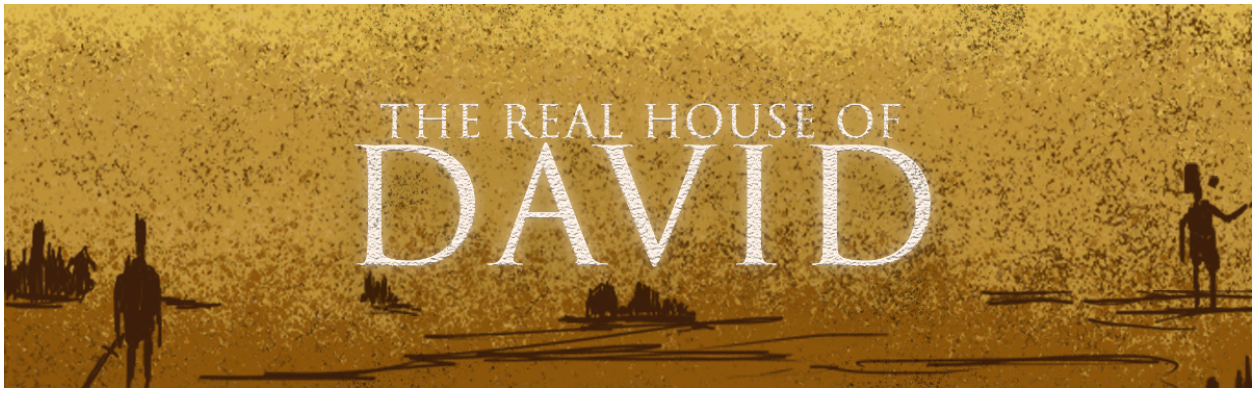


FINISH STRONG

2 Samuel 21:15-23:39

- **David made some big mistakes in his life, as most people do (2 Samuel 11-18).**
- **Failures aren't people who "fall down," but people who "fail to get up" once they fall down.**
- *"Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom."* (Psalm 90:12)
- **We have to learn from our mistakes so we can be wiser in the present and future, and we have to make a commitment to "finishing strong."**
- ***What are some other keys to "finishing strong" that we learn from David's story?***

"Finishing Strong" In Life Requires:

STAYING IN THE <u>BATTLE</u> (2 Samuel 21:15-22)

- *"Once again the Philistines were at war with Israel. And when David and his men were in the thick of battle, David became weak and exhausted."* (2 Samuel 21:15)
- **David was a "warrior" who continued fighting for the Lord and his kingdom well up into his old age.**
- **We can equate "fighting for the Lord" in David's day with "serving the Lord" in our day.**
- *"Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless."* (1 Corinthians 15:58)
- *"Ishbi-benob was a descendant of the giants. He had cornered David and was about to kill him. But Abishai, son of Zeruiah, came to David's rescue and killed the Philistine. Then David's men declared, 'You are not going out to battle with us again! Why risk snuffing out the light of Israel?'"* (2 Samuel 21:16-17)
- **Our commitment to the Lord will be evidenced by the effort we give.**

    - *"Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically."* (Romans 12:11)
- **Our commitment to the Lord will be evidenced by the example we are.**
    - Jesus - *"Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your Heavenly Father."* (Matthew 5:16)
    - *"Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people."* (Philippians 2:15)
- ***What changes do I need to make to better serve and live for the Lord?***

"Finishing Strong" In Life Requires:

SURROUNDING OURSELVES WITH <u>STRONG</u> <u>PEOPLE</u> (2 Samuel 21:15-22, 23:8-39)

- *"There was another battle against the Philistines at Gob. As they fought, Sibbecai from Hushah killed Saph, another descendant of the giants. During another battle at Gob, Elhanan son of Jair from Bethlehem killed the brother of Goliath of Gath. . . . In another battle with the Philistines at Gath, they encountered a huge man with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in all, who was also a descendant of the giants. But when he defied and taunted Israel, he was killed by Jonathan, the son of David's brother Shimea."* (2 Samuel 21:18-21)
- **David surrounded himself with "mighty men" who were a good support network for him (2 Samuel 23:8-39).**
- **People at Celebration surround themselves with "mighty men and women" as they get involved in a Life Group or on a Serve Team.**
- *"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals and to prayer. . . . And all the believers . . . shared everything they had. . . . They worshiped together at the Temple, met in homes . . . and shared their meals with great joy and generosity, all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people."* (Acts 2:42-47)
- **To live strong lives we have to study God's Word together, fellowship together, pray together and serve together like we do in Life Groups; and as we do we will experience joy-filled, generous and victorious lives.**
- "There are no successful 'Lone Ranger' Christians." - Dr. Randy Millwood
- ***What steps do I need to take to surround myself with a godly support network like we have in Life Groups and on Serve Teams?***

Finishing Strong" In Life Requires:

CONTINUING TO <u>PRAISE</u> THE LORD (2 Samuel 22:1-51)

- **David was a worshipper who continued praising God throughout his life.**
- **We need to continually praise the Lord for *Who He Is To Us.***

    - David - *"The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety. He is my refuge, my savior, the One who saves me from violence. I called on the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and He saved me from my enemies."* (2 Samuel 22:2-4)
- **We need to continually praise the Lord for *What He Does For Us* (Psalm 22:5-51).**
    - **We need to continually praise the Lord because He: 1) hears our prayers (2 Samuel 22:7), 2) rescues us from deep trouble (2 Samuel 22:17), 3) delivers us from our enemies (2 Samuel 22:18-20), 4) rewards us for doing right (2 Samuel 22:21-28), 5) directs us through perilous times (2 Samuel 22:29-31), 6) strengthens us so we can achieve victory (2 Samuel 22:32-36), 7) gives us victory over our enemies (2 Samuel 22:44-49), and 8) grants us salvation and mercy (2 Samuel 22:50-51)**
- David - *"For this, O LORD, I will praise You among the nations; I will sing praises to Your name."* (2 Samuel 22:50)
- ***What has happened in my life, family, church, community or world that I can praise the Lord for?***

Finishing Strong" In Life Requires:

MAINTAINING OUR <u>TRUST</u> IN THE LORD (2 Samuel 23:1-7)

- *"The LORD has made an everlasting covenant with me. His agreement is arranged and guaranteed in every detail. He will ensure my safety and success."* (2 Samuel 23:5)
- **We can always depend upon the Lord's *Covenant with Us.***
    - **A covenant is a life-long, binding agreement, and the Lord has made a great covenant with Christians.**
    - *"You Gentiles used to be outsiders. . . . In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to Him through the blood of Christ. . . . Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us."* (Ephesians 2:11-13, 18)
- **We can always depend upon the Lord's *Care for Us.***
    - David – *"He (the LORD) will ensure my safety and success."* (2 Samuel 23:5)

    - **When we are fully trusting in the Lord He will provide us with safety (2 Corinthians 1:8-10) and success.**
- *"'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the LORD. 'They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.'"* (Jeremiah 29:11)

- **No matter our age, there will always be "giant problems" to overcome (2 Samuel 21:15-22).**
- **We can overcome our "giants" with the help of the Lord and His people (2 Samuel 21:15-22, 23:8-39).**
- ***What decisions and steps do I need to "finish strong" in my life?***