

"Upon this rock I will build my church"

Matthew 16:18

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VALIANCE ABUSED: MIGHTY MEN WHO WERE EVIL
(Genesis 6:4,5)

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Constant perseverance and vigilance are needed to avoid becoming evil.
- B. Our allegiance to God and His will is crucial to being successful against all of the corrupting influences Satan uses.
- C. Valiant men were not always men who feared and served God.
 - 1. There were men who are described as "mighty" or "valiant" who opposed God's will.
 - 2. Other men who were valiant or mighty started out as servants of God but were then corrupted by evil.

DISCUSSION:

I. ENEMIES OF GOD'S WILL ARE OFTEN DESCRIBED AS MIGHTY MEN.

- A. Men of Jericho (Joshua 6:2).
 - 1. Men who exhibited the qualities of valor.
 - 2. Men who were brave, strong, and courageous.
- B. Assyrian men of valour defeated by God (II Chronicles 32:21).
 - 1. Valour not always enough.
 - 2. Valour must have the alliance of God (Romans 8:38, 39).
- C. Naaman, a Syrian, described as a man of valour (II Kings 5:1).
 - 1. Had been able to lead Syria to victory over Israel.
 - 2. Did not believe in Jehovah (II Kings 5:11).
 - 3. Became a believer (II Kings 5:15).
- D. Some men who were valiant men of God became evil.

II. SAUL, A VALIANT MAN, WHO BECAME EVIL.

- A. Saul's early greatness.
 - 1. Displayed humility and a fear of God (I Samuel 9:21).
 - 2. Hesitant to accept the task of king (I Samuel 10:22).
 - 3. Patient with those who did not accept him (I Samuel 10:27).
- B. Saul's early victories.
 - 1. Delivers Jabesh-Gilead from the Ammonites (I Samuel 11:1-11).
 - 2. Victory over the Philistines (I Samuel 14; Jonathan).
 - 3. Other victories: over Ammonites, Moab, Edom, Kings of Zobah, the Amalekites, and the philistines again.

- C. Saul's transgressions and downfall.
1. Didn't wait for Samuel to make sacrifice (I Samuel 13:1-14).
 2. Did not destroy Amalek as directed (I Samuel 15:13-22).
 3. Saul's problem is he did not remain humble (I Samuel 15:17).
 4. Lost God's guidance and direction (I Samuel 16:14).
 5. Jealousy toward David (I Samuel 18:7-9).
 6. Saul went against what he knew was right (I Samuel 24:16-22).
- D. Saul ends up as one of the most pitiable characters in all the Bible.

CONCLUSION:

- A. To constantly disregard what we know is right can lead us to destruction.
- B. To allow personal ambition, human emotions, and impatience to rule us can bring folly.
- C. Courage, strength, and conviction, while needed by all Christians, is not enough if we do not ally ourselves with God.

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