

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Building an Empire

2 Samuel 7-8 4:4 | Chronicles 17:1-18:34

Segment:

- David's desire to build a Temple for the Lord
- God says, "No."
- David continues to build and establish the kingdom
- David's compassion

Segment Questions:

- What do you think was going on in David's head and heart as he told the prophet he wanted to build a Temple for the Lord?
- What do you think enables David to continually succeed in whatever God gives him to do?
- How do you think David's advancing the kingdom of Israel might relate to our advancing the Kingdom of God?
- Put yourself in Methibosheth's shoes. How are you feeling when David calls you to his office?
- The story goes from "Finally there was peace in Israel," to desiring to build a Temple for the Lord, to "he turned his armies north and defeated nation after nation," and finally to "from now on you will eat at my table." What do you think about all this? How do you reconcile all these actions of David?

Action Questions:

- How do you show your desire to dedicate your work and possessions to the Lord?
- "King David was content when he heard this message." How content are you when you hear the Lord say, "No"? In the past week or so, how has God given you contentment in a situation at work or home?
- How can you advance the Kingdom of God where you live, work or play this week?
- Is there someone who God is prompting you to show compassion?

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From: www.btstories.com

David established his kingdom and defended it from the nations around him. Finally there was peace in Israel. He then started thinking about building a Temple for the Lord. One day he said to the prophet of God, "I live in a beautiful palace, while the Ark of God remains in a tent!"

That night God spoke to the prophet and gave him a message for David. The Lord said, "You were following sheep when I made you king of Israel. I've been with you all these years, and have given you victory over your enemies. Now I'll establish your name among the greatest men who'll ever live. Your royal family line will last forever.

"Still, I won't allow you to build my house. I've made you a man of war and many have died because of you. Your son will be a man of peace, and he will build my house. I'll be a father to him and establish his kingdom."

King David was content when he heard this message, and humbled himself before the Lord. From that day he started looking at the nations around him. He invaded the Philistines and took back the cities and lands they had taken from Israel. He then turned to the Moabites and Edomites and brought them into submission to Israel.

He turned his armies north and defeated nation after nation. Jerusalem became prosperous as gold, silver, bronze, and horses were brought to the city. David set up garrisons in all of these countries to maintain control over them. He used their men to build up his army. His name became feared and honored throughout that part of the world.

David dedicated to the Lord all that he gained. He brought justice to the people, and taught them righteousness.

One day David asked his servants, "Are there any members of Saul's family still alive? I want to show them kindness just like Jonathan showed kindness to me."

A servant named Ziba spoke up and told him about Mephibosheth, who was Jonathan's son.

David sent for him. He came in and bowed down on the ground. He said, "I am your servant."

David said, "Don't be afraid. I'm returning to you the kindness that your father gave to me. I'm giving you all the fields that belonged to Saul. Also, from now on, you'll eat at my table."