

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

Jobs that deal with things are always much easier than jobs that deal with people. Computer programs will have bugs. But people will keep bugging you. Experiments may fail, but people will fail you. Projects may make you feel tired, but people will get tired of you. They will also argue with you, insist on their own ways and are reluctant to cooperate. Moreover, they have feelings, emotions and preferences. It is difficult to be a lone-ranger. But it is harder to manage people. I wonder if some successful leaders take psychology classes as part of their training. God was preparing David to be a future king. He did not only have to fight in battles. He also had to oversee subordinates. Very often, struggles come from the outside as well as the inside. Leaders have to confront the inner voice persuading them to quit when people are rising up against them. David was in a situation like that. Our story today is a continuation from the previous chapter. David thought he could find a safe haven from Saul's pursuit by surrendering to Achish, a Philistine king. His new boss asked David to fight against the Israelites. However, some Philistine leaders were afraid that David might be a cover-up agent. Achish had no choice but to send David and his men away. Just like that, God saved David from the dilemma of waging war against his peers. The troop must be whistling on their way home. They expected a warm welcome from their families. Little did they know that a crisis was waiting ahead. We shall see how David navigated through those challenges. We can learn from him that a godly leader draws people to follow God.

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 向神尋求指引| Seek Guidance from God

David and his men saw smoke rising from their village at a distance. Some Amalekites raided the place. David responded by seeking guidance from God. He learned that he could no longer rely on his wit. **Verses 4-6** describe the scene and the soldiers' reaction. Everyone was devastated. After wiping their tears, David's men vented their frustration onto their leader. They even planned to throw stones to kill him. They put all the blames on David. If he had not surrendered to Achish and if David had not asked them to go to war with the Philistines, then the outcome would have been very different. It is easy to shift blame when problems arise. It happens in the corporate world and in politics. People quickly draw a line, saying that someone else causes the problem. But doing so will only divide and not unite a group. I played some basketball when I was younger. Once a guy teased at our team's name and jersey. He also belittled our skills. All the ridicule stopped when we asked him one question: "Do you want to join us?" Our mentality will completely change once we stop calling them "their problems" but look at them as "our problems." We have a lot to do in this church. Will you join us? It is easy to complain but will you commit? Perhaps God wants you to get involved by allowing you to see some existing issues. Roll your sleeves up and serve! David's men were sad and mad. Verse 6 tells us where David found a solution: **But David**

**strengthened himself in the Lord his God.** He went to God to seek His guidance. **Verses 7-8** tell us what he did next. We mentioned before that an ephod was part of the priest's uniform. There were two stones in the front pocket for a priest to discern God's will. After praying, a priest would randomly draw a pebble. One stone indicates a yes and the other a no from the Lord. In this case, God's answers to all three questions were yes. David should chase after the enemies. He would find them, and he would be able to rescue his people. With God's approval, David led his six hundred men on a pursuit. Where do you find strength when you are weak in faith? You must go to God, our power source. A man named Jacob DeShazer did that. In December, 1941 DeShazer heard on the radio that the Japanese had raided the Peral Harbor. He was enraged and decided to join the Air Force. A few months later, DeShazer and his teammates were sent on a mission to attack Nagoya, Japan. Unfortunately, their plane ran out of fuel. The airmen had to jump parachutes. They were captured by the Japanese the next day. That began forty months of inhumane confinement. The crew was beaten and they suffered from malnutrition. A few members were later executed. By divine coincidence, the squad was given an English Bible. DeShazer started reading the holy book page by page. He then confessed his sins and committed his life to Jesus. DeShazer had hope in a hopeless condition. He learned to seek guidance from God. We must do the same thing when we are in an uphill battle. Isaiah 40:31 says: **But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.** We can get tired and run out of ideas. But God is our unlimited source of strength and wisdom. We can soar like an eagle and dash like an Olympic athlete when we wait on the Lord. By waiting it does not mean idling. David and his men kept searching while waiting for God's direction. We should wait on the Lord by exploring His Word and gathering coworkers to pray. A godly leader must be also be a reader of God's Word and an earnest pray-er. It is no longer this or that person's idea that matters. But we invite everyone to follow God's guidance.

## 2. 對人顯出恩慈 Show Grace to Others

David chose to seek guidance from God. Moreover, he became a role-model of his followers by showing grace to others. We see two examples in this chapter. The first instance is in **verses 9-10**. One-third of the soldiers were too tired to move on. We can imagine the rest of the men grumbled: "Come on, how can you rest when we need to fight?" But David showed grace to those exhausted comrades because he understood their limitations. We need to care for our busy coworkers too. They may have a day-job and a family to care for like you do. They serve the Lord and His people out of love. Once in a while, they can use a break. It is a gracious thing for you to ask: "How may I help?" There are some duties like cleaning or ushering that do not require any special skill. Will you serve and let others rest? The second occasion where David showed grace is found in **verses 11-12**. David and his men were anxiously looking everywhere for their people. But they stopped and helped an Egyptian. He did not have any food or water for three whole days. He might not survive if not because of those kind soldiers. We run into many strangers every day. There are simple things we can do to show grace to them. For example, hold the door for the person behind you, allow a driver to cut into the traffic from a parking lot or say hi to people passing by in the park. They do

not know you are a Christian. But at least they feel God's love from you. Perhaps that person can be a messenger God sends to bless you in return. That was what happened to David. Continue to read [verses 13-14](#). How big a difference it would have made if David's men had not showed grace to that slave? He might die of dehydration. They would wander aimlessly in the wilderness. Somehow God allowed two strangers to intersect, and both of them received timely help they desperately needed. Very often, that is how God works in our lives. Jacob DeShazer became a new person after he received Jesus. He no longer had hatred toward those Japanese soldiers who tortured him. On the contrary, he knew that Jesus wanted him to forgive them just like the Lord had forgiven him. Therefore, DeShazer showed grace to his enemies. As a result, one particular prison guard even became a helper to DeShazer. He went as far as smuggling food to DeShazer and possibly saved him from dying of malnutrition. DeShazer learned to be obedient to God. The Lord rewarded his submission in unexpected ways. We often experience God's blessings in surprising manners too. God wisely let seemingly random things to happen to us. He also brings the right helpers to us at the perfect time. As we look back, we cannot help but thank God for His wisdom. The future is full of unknowns. We make plans based on the information we can get. Then we step out in faith, knowing that the Lord will lead us. To our gospel friends: God is working in your life as well. It is not a coincidence that you come to this city and this church. God desires to build an eternal relationship with you. You must humble yourself, confess your sins and accept Jesus by faith into your heart. The Lord promised to watch over your life. He never guarantees that it will be trouble-free, but He will always be with you. The Egyptian returned a favor to David by leading his men to the camp of the Amalekites. Subsequently, the team was able to destroy the enemies, recover the captured people and properties and even seize everything the Amalekites had. With God's protection, no one was hurt and David's troop had a great victory.

### 3. 與眾分享成果 Share Gifts with Peers

A search-and-rescue mission became a treasure-hunting trip. While people were rejoicing, a disunity was brewing. The way David resolved the matter demonstrated another quality of a godly leader: sharing gifts with one's peers. Let us look at [verses 21-22](#). Those who stayed behind saw the troop and their families approaching. But before their commander proposed how to share the plunder, some trouble-makers voiced their opinion. They suggested that one's compensation should be proportional to his contribution. It was evident that they wanted a bigger cut of the goodies. However, David had a different view. Continue to read [verses 23-25](#). David called those wicked people "my brothers." Even though people had different perspectives, everyone was part of the team. Those two hundred men played a role in guarding the supplies. Indeed, the fighters deserved credit for defeating the enemies. But God should get the ultimate glory. It was God who brought the Egyptian to them and God gave the enemies into their hands. God enabled them a victory. David emphasized on grace instead of effort. Due to this event, David set a precedent for future Israelites to follow. At the end, David did not only distribute the plunder evenly among the soldiers. He also presented gifts to some people in Judah. David was from the same tribe. In doing so, David strengthened the friendship with those people. That paved the way for his future kingship.

David saw every soldier as equally important. They might have different roles, but they all contributed to the same goals. The apostle Paul teaches us the same truth by using the human body to represent a church. He reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12:18 – **But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.** God gathers people from various places to form a church. God also gives each believer unique spiritual gifts. Some roles are more prominent, others are less obvious. Some people can sing, others can fix things. Certain members can teach, others have more patience toward kids. God intends for us to work together to build up His church. Just like David's troop, we need some people to care for the supplies so that others can fight at the frontline. We have to depend on each other to make a church functional and strong. We can foster a team spirit by constantly encouraging each other, especially those who work behind the scene. I encourage you to go find out who decorate our church during major festivals, put up nice display on the noticeboards in the gym, empty trash and take care of book-keeping. The list goes on and on. Thank them for their faithfulness and diligence. We need a lot of unsung heroes like them to keep other ministries going. David shared the gifts from God with his people. The biggest gift God gives to us is eternal life. As recipients of God's grace, we should be messengers of His gospel as well. Tell people about Jesus. Share with them that once you were a slave in sin. But Jesus set you free. DeShazer did just that. Eventually, he and his surviving crew were rescued from the prison camp. After the war, DeShazer went to a seminary to study. He decided to become a missionary to Japan. He wanted to share a message of reconciliation with his former enemies. Among the people he led to Christ was Mitsuo Fuchida. He was a leader in the Pearl Harbor attack. Later, the two brothers toured around, telling their stories and the gospel. Subsequently, DeShazer also founded a church in Nagoya, the city where he dropped bombs when he served as a pilot. A story of defeat and hatred turned into an account of victory and peace.

## 結論 CONCLUSION

Leaders guide followers to a common goal. A godly leader draws people to follow God. There will be contrasting voices in a team. A godly leader has to give up on the idea of giving up. The battle is not done. There are duties to be completed. When our Lord came into the world, He had to fight back opposition too. But He did not succumb to the enemies. Instead, Jesus kept seeking guidance from God. He told people that His mission was to obey the Father's will. Wicked people set traps to harm Jesus, but He showed them grace. He invited all those who were thirsty to come to Him, the fountain of living water. He called Himself the Good Shepherd who came to offer an abundant life. While people despised Him and some Roman soldiers cast lot to divide His robe, Jesus shared the gift of eternal life to mankind. Those who respond by faith will be saved.

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

做事情的工作總是比跟人打交道的工作來得容易。電腦程序會有錯誤，但是人會常常找你麻煩。實驗可能會失敗，但人會讓你失望。工作項目會使你感到疲倦，但人會厭倦你。他們也會和你爭論、堅持己見、不願意合作。此外，他們有感覺、情緒和偏好。做獨行俠很難，但是管理人更難。我懷疑一些成功的領袖是否都學過心理學。神正在預備大衛成為未來的君王。他不僅要參加戰爭，他還要帶領下屬。很多時候，挑戰來自外面和裡面。當人們有反對聲音時，領袖們必須對抗想要放棄的念頭。大衛就是處於這樣的境況。我們今天的故事是上一章的延續。大衛以為他可以向非利士王亞吉投降，從而躲避掃羅的追捕。大衛的新老闆要求他和以色列人打仗。然而，一些非利士領袖擔心大衛可能是一個臥底。亞吉只好打發大衛和他的手下回家。就這樣，神把大衛從困境中救出來。士兵們在回家的路上一定是心情輕鬆。他們期待家人的熱烈歡迎。但是他們不知道前面有一場危機正在等待著他們。我們將看到大衛如何解決那些挑戰。從中我們可以了解到敬虔的領袖會吸引人跟隨神。

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 向神尋求指引 | Seek Guidance from God

大衛和他的下屬遠遠地看到村莊在冒煙。原來一些亞瑪力人攻擊那個地方。大衛的回應是向神尋求指引。他了解到他不能再倚靠自己的小聰明。**第 4-6 節**描述現場的情形和士兵的反應。所有人都感到沮喪。大衛的手下擦乾眼淚後，把不滿的情緒發洩在領袖的身上。他們甚至打算扔石頭打死大衛。他們把所有的責任都推在他的身上。如果大衛沒有投靠亞吉，如果他沒有要求他們和非利士上戰場，那麼結果就會很不一樣。當問題出現時，人們傾向於推卸責任。這種事情常常在企業界和政治界發生。人們馬上劃清界線，說是其他人的錯。但這樣做只會分裂而不是團結一個群體。我年輕的時候經常打籃球。曾經有一個人取笑我們球隊的名字和球衣，他還小看我們的球技。當我們問他一個問題時，他便不再嘲笑了：「你想加入我們嗎？」一旦我們不再稱它們為「他們的問題」，而將它們視為「我們的問題」，我們的心態就會完全改變。我們在這個教會裡有很多事要做，你願意幫忙嗎？抱怨很容易，你願意加入嗎？神讓你看到一些現有的問題，也許祂希望你參與解決問題。捲起衣袖，投入服事吧！大衛的手下又難過又生氣。第 6 節告訴我們大衛在哪裡找到解決辦法：**大衛卻倚靠**

耶和華他的神，心裡堅固。大衛到神面前尋求祂的指引。第 7-8 節告訴我們他接下來做什麼。我們之前提過以弗得是祭司製服的一部分。前面的口袋裡有兩塊石頭，讓祭司辨別神的旨意。經過禱告後，祭司會抽一顆石頭。一塊石頭表示神同意，另一塊石頭表示神不同意。這一次神對大衛三個問題的回答都是肯定的。大衛應該追趕敵人，他會找到他們，也能拯救他的人。得到神的確認後，大衛率領他的六百個士兵去追。當你信心軟弱時，你從哪裡找到力量？你必須尋找神，祂是我們的力量源泉。一個名叫雅各·德沙哲的人就是那樣做的。在 1941 年 12 月，德沙哲在收音機中聽到日本人偷襲珍珠港。他很生氣，於是決定加入空軍。幾個月後，德沙哲和他的隊友被派去轟炸名古屋。可惜，他們的飛機沒汽油了。飛行員只好跳傘逃生。第二天他們被日軍俘虜了，從此開始了四十個月不人道的監禁。那些美軍被毆打，也吃不飽。一些成員後來被處決。有一天，他們巧合地得到一本英文聖經。德沙哲開始一頁一頁地看。然後他承認自己的罪，並將自己的生命交託給耶穌。德沙哲在絕望中看到了希望。他學會了尋求神的指引。當我們在困境中時，我們必須做同樣的事情。以賽亞書 40:31 說：**但那等候耶和華的必從新得力。他們必如鷹展翅上騰；他們奔跑卻不困倦，行走卻不疲乏。**我們可能會感到疲倦並束手無策，但神是我們力量和智慧的無限源泉。當我們等候主時，我們可以像鷹一樣翱翔，像奧林匹克選手一樣奔跑。等待並不等於閒站。大衛和他的手下一直在尋找他們的家人，同時等待神的指引。我們在等候主的時候應該讀祂的話語和召集同工一起禱告。敬虔的領袖必須是讀神話語並懇切禱告的人。重點不是這個人或那個人的看法。我們邀請所有人遵循神的指引。

## 2. 對人顯出恩慈 Show Grace to Others

大衛選擇尋求神的指引。此外，大衛對人顯出恩慈，他為跟隨者樹立美好的榜樣。我們在這一章看到兩個這樣的例子。第一個例子是在第 9-10 節。三分之一的士兵累得無法繼續前行。我們可以想像其餘的人會埋怨：「有沒有搞錯，我們要去打仗，你們怎麼能休息？」但大衛體諒那些疲倦的戰友，向他們顯出恩慈。我們也需要關心我們忙碌的同工。他們可能像你一樣有一份日常工作和需要照顧他們的家庭。他們出於愛神和愛人參與服事。偶爾，他們也需要休息一下。你應該向他們顯出恩慈。你可以問他們：「有什麼我可以幫忙的嗎？」有些服事不需要任何特殊技能，例如清潔或招待。你願意服事別人，讓他們休息嗎？大衛第二次顯出恩慈是在第 11-12 節。大衛和他的手下正急著到處找他們的家人，但是他們停下來幫助一個埃及人。他整整三天沒有吃喝。如果不是因為那些好心的士兵，他可能活不下來。我們每天都會遇到很多陌生人。我們可以做一些簡單的事情來向他們表達恩慈。例如，為後面的人開門，讓別的車子切入車流，或在公園裡向路過的人打招呼。人們不知道你是基督徒，但至少他

們從你身上感受到神的愛。說不定那個人是神派來幫助你的使者。這就是發生在大衛身上的事。繼續讀第 13-14 節。如果大衛的手下沒有對那個奴隸表現出恩慈，情況會有多大的分別呢？他可能會渴死，他們會繼續在荒野中到處尋找。神奇妙地讓兩個陌生人相遇，他們都得到了急需的幫助。很多時候，這就是神在我們生活中工作的方式。德沙哲在接受耶穌後成為一個新人。他不再恨那些折磨他的日本士兵。相反，他知道耶穌要他原諒他們，就像主原諒他一樣。因此，德沙哲向他的敵人顯出恩慈。結果，一位士兵甚至成為德沙哲的幫手。他偷偷地拿食物給德沙哲，使他不至於營養不足。德沙哲學會了順服神。主用意想不到的方式獎賞他的順服。我們也經常在不知不覺中體驗到神的祝福。神很有智慧地讓看來是偶然的事情發生在我們身上。祂還會在最準確的時間為我們安排適合的幫手。當我們回首過去，必然會感謝神的智慧。未來充滿了未知。我們根據能夠掌握的信息制定計劃。然後我們憑著信心走出去，知道主會帶領我們。親愛的朋友：神也在你的生命中作工。你來到這個城市和這所教會並不是巧合的。神渴望與你建立永恆的關係。你必須謙卑自己，承認你的罪，並憑信心接受耶穌進入你的心。主應許會看顧你的生活。祂從不保證一切順利，但祂永遠與你同在。那個埃及人回報大衛的恩慈，帶領他的下屬前往亞瑪力人的營地。隨後，大衛的部隊消滅了敵人，奪回了被俘的家人和財產，甚至奪走了亞瑪力人一切所有的。在神的保護下，沒有人受傷，大衛的軍隊大獲全勝。

### 3. 與眾分享成果 Share Gifts with Peers

搜尋和救援的任務變成了尋寶之旅。就在人們歡欣鼓舞之際，潛伏著一場紛爭。大衛解決問題的方法展示出敬虔領袖的另一方面的品格：他與眾分享成果。讓我們看看第 21-22 節。留在後方的人看到部隊和他們的家人正在接近。當指揮官還沒有提出如何分享戰利品之前，一些搗亂分子發表他們的意見。他們建議一個人的報酬應該與他的貢獻成正比。很明顯，他們想要得到更多的好東西。然而，大衛卻有不同的看法。繼續閱讀第 23-25 節。大衛稱那些惡人為「弟兄們」。儘管各人有不同的觀點，但每個人都是團隊的一部分。那兩百人看守物資。當然，上戰場的人是大有功勞，但是神配得最終的榮耀。是神將那個埃及人帶到他們面前，也是神將敵人交在他們的手中。神使他們得勝。大衛強調恩典而不是功勞。由於這件事，大衛為未來的以色列人設立了一個先例。最終，大衛不僅把戰利品平均分給士兵們，他還送禮物給一些住在猶大的人。大衛是來自同一個支派。通過這樣做，大衛鞏固了他們之間的關係，為他未來的王位鋪路。大衛認為每個士兵都同樣重要。他們可能扮演不同的角色，但他們都為同一個目標作出了貢獻。使徒保羅用人的身體來代表教會，教導我們同樣的真理。他在哥林多前書 12:18 中提醒我們：**但如今，神隨自己的意思把肢**

體俱各安排在身上了。神從不同地方招聚人，組成教會。神也賜給每個信徒獨特的屬靈恩賜。有些角色比較突出，有些則不太明顯。有些人會唱歌，有些人會修理東西。某些成員可以教導聖經，其他成員對孩子更有耐心。神的心意是要我們互相配搭來建造祂的教會。就像大衛的部隊一樣，我們需要一些人來看守物資，使其他人可以在前線打仗。我們必須彼此依靠，才能使教會運作並壯大。我們可以藉著經常互相鼓勵來培養團隊精神，尤其要關注那些在幕後工作的人。我鼓勵你去調查一下是誰在重要節日裝飾教會，在體育館的佈告板上放漂亮的展示，倒垃圾和記賬。還有許多別的事項。我們應該感謝他們的忠心和勤奮。我們需要很多像他們那樣的無名英雄來維持事工的運作。大衛與他的子民分享神所賜的成果。神給我們最大的禮物就是永生。當我們接受了神的恩典，我們也應該成為福音的使者。向人們講述耶穌，與他們分享你曾經是罪的奴僕，但是耶穌釋放了。德沙哲就是這樣做的。結果，他和他生還的同伴被救出來。戰後，德沙哲去一所神學院進修。他決定去日本當宣教士。他打算與他以前的敵人分享與神和好的信息。在他帶領信主的人之中，有淵田美津雄。他是偷襲珍珠港的帶領者。後來，兩位主內的弟兄到處巡迴佈道，講述他們的故事和福音。德沙哲之後還在他曾經轟炸的名古屋建立了一間教會。失敗和仇恨的經歷最終變成了勝利與平安的故事。

## 結論 CONCLUSION

領袖引導跟隨者朝向共同的目標。敬虔的領袖會吸引人跟隨神。團隊中會有不同的聲音。敬虔的領袖必須拒絕放棄的念頭。爭戰還沒有結束，任務仍然沒有完成。當我們的主來到世上時，祂也必須面對反對祂的人。但祂沒有向敵人投降。耶穌不斷尋求神的指引。祂告訴人們祂的使命是順服天父的旨意。惡人設下陷阱來傷害耶穌，但祂向他們顯出恩慈。祂邀請所有乾渴的人到祂那裡來，祂是活水的泉源。耶穌說祂是好牧人，祂來賞賜豐盛的生命。當人們藐視祂，一些羅馬士兵抽籤分祂的袍子時，耶穌卻將永生的禮物分享給人。那些憑信心回應的人便能得救。