

Lessons From The Life of David

Part I - lessons from the field of preparation

More has been written about David than about any other biblical character?

Abraham has fourteen chapters dedicated to his life, and so does Joseph.

Jacob has eleven.

Elijah has ten.

Do you have any idea how many are dedicated to David?

Almost 70 and that does not include some fifty-nine references to his life in the New Testament.

David was not a perfect man. He was a man just like any other man, but God said he was a man after God's own heart.

God is in the business of using ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 - "For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence."

2 Chronicles 16:9 - "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him."

Psalms 78:70 - "He also chose David His servant, And took him from the sheepfolds."

Psalm 89:20 - "I have found David My servant; With My holy oil I have anointed him. . . ."

David had a servants heart. A servant doesn't care who gets the credit. Servants have one goal, that the person they serve looks better and the job gets done.

**Psalm 78:71-72 -"From the care of the ewes with suckling lambs He brought him,
To shepherd Jacob His people,
And Israel His inheritance.
So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them with his skillful hands."**

God is not looking for magnificent specimens of humanity.

He's looking for deeply spiritual, genuinely humble, honest-to-the-core servants who have integrity.

Listen to some of the synonyms for this Hebrew word thamam, translated "integrity": "complete, whole, innocent, having simplicity of life, wholesome, sound, unimpaired." Isn't that beautiful? Integrity is what you are when nobody's looking.

1 Samuel 13:12-14

David stands beside Saul looking at Goliath.

The wilderness will prepare you for things that nobody thinks your ready for.

God doesn't need their permission to promote you. He has already seen what He needs to see.

1 Samuel 17:34-35

David had squared off against a lion and bear. Goliath was nothing.

Saul attacked David because he saw David as the threat. It wasn't David. It was the anointing on his life. When people attack you it's not you they are after. It's the anointing on your life.

King Saul was murderous. But God was completely aware of the situation.

Saul was the one God was going to use to shape David's life in the in-between years, between the sheep and the throne, so He knew Saul very well.

Do you have a Saul in your life?

Is there somebody who irritates and rubs and files and scrapes and bothers you?

God knows all about it. That person is all part of His plan, strange as that may seem.

They roll their eyes when you walk in the room.

They read your post cause they always know what you have going on, but they never like it or comment on it.

They give you the cold shoulder and you don't know why.

They look at you some kind of way and you don't know why.

It's the favor on your life.

We see in 1 Samuel 16 that God rejects Saul as king and sends Samuel on the search for the next king.

God reminds Samuel not to be fooled by the outward appearance.

Samuel goes to see Jesse and Jesse doesn't even bother calling David in from the field. Maybe his brothers forgot about him.

It's often easy to forget people when they are in the process and we don't hear from them.

When they are out of sight is when the preparation is taking place.

David was ok just being with God on the back side of the mountains during the process. He loved the Lord and knew God was teaching him some things.

Be ok in the process, but understand the process.

Process versus Fruit...

Many need to discern what is really happening in their lives, so that the posture of their heart understands the moment they are in...

Don't confuse process with fruit.

Job was in process.

King Saul was in fruit.

Both going through hell, but King Saul was eating the fruit of his decisions, and Job was being processed by God for increase.

The hell may look similar, the reason may be radically different.

Many are saying "process" about their circumstances, when in reality it's fruit that they are reaping.

And many are tormented in mind thinking it's fruit...when it's simply process.

Zach. 4:10 - be careful not to think too lightly about small beginnings.

When Jesus was in the garden He was being prepared for Calvary. The disciples didn't understand the importance of the garden.

They had fallen asleep. But Jesus was in a battle for you and me. He was preparing to go to the Cross.

Jesus began to defeat death hell and the grave before He ever got to the Cross.

David was preparing to lead a nation. I have to believe that while he was on the hillside that he was imagining himself leading a nation even though at the time he was simply taking care of sheep.

Scripture says in **1 Samuel 17:15 that every now and then David would venture over to the battlefield to check things out and then he would return.**

I am sure he would go back after seeing Goliath and talk to him self in the field.

The bible only tells us about the lion and bear, but I bet the Lord sent a snake at first and then maybe a fox or wolf.

David would easily kill them and I am sure he would tell himself that he would do that to Goliath if they would just give him a chance.

He would go down and see Goliath and wonder what was going on. Why was no one fighting. He would come back from the battle field and kill a lion and then a bear.

David finally had had enough. He began asking questions about this giant.

He began asking questions everyone else said he shouldn't be asking and they certainly weren't asking them,

He couldn't leave well enough alone.

There was a pioneer spirit on him. He couldn't just go with he crowd.

He had seen too much to just do whatever body else was going.

1 Samuel 17:28, 33-37.

The enemy knew David was a giant killer.

He knew David was suppose to be king.

He saw what God had anointed David to do before David did.

He was hoping that he could defeat David in the preparation stage and he would have to worry about him on the battle field.

The devil's tactics are to kill you, it just looks different each trial.

He knew that if he could defeat David with a bear or lion that he would never be a threat to Goliath, but the devil knew what was in him and he knew that if he didn't stop him in the pasture it would be too late once he got to the battlefield.

He knew that if he killed the bear he would be a threat to the giant. He knew what was in him. He knew the threat he posed to the power of darkness.

If he can't kill you he will try to disqualify you. He will try to get the rest of the world to not take you serious.

Church some of you have been at your place of preparation and the devil tried to kill you.

He caused you much frustration n the wilderness, because he knows that if you continue to trust the Lord and stay faithful during the preparation the he will not be able to stop you on the battlefield.

While his brothers were trying to impress Samuel with their outward appearance David was preparing to kill a giant.

God had to use David cause everyone else was complacent.

The price you are asked to pay has a connection to the level of anointing on your life.

You won't ever get to tell anybody about the price. They will see the end result and they will see the anointing, but they may never know the price.

We talk about the agony of Jesus at Calvary and no doubt we should.

Jesus faced the physical pain at the Cross, but I believe the emotional pain that He faced started way before the Friday.

There are not words that could describe the emotional and physical pain that Jesus felt. Some times we try to describe in an attempt to bring people to Christ.

I believe that Jesus wanted to saved the world so much that He would not talk about the pain he faced because in comparison to the return of salvation for the believer it would be embarrassing.

In other words, the price of Calvary could not compare to his desire to save the world. Thats why he went there.

The price of being lonely on the backside of the mountain could not compare to being anointed king. David knew he had to keep fighting.

David knew that the risk of fighting Goliath could not compare to the joy of delivering a people.

David was ok just being with God on the back side of the mountains.