

Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.
Sunday September 23, 2018. David.

A. Intro.

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work thru from the message this past Sunday. Whether you were able to attend the worship service or not, this devotional is free-standing and you can still use it to help you dig deeper in your own spiritual walk. Take as long as you need to dive into this material and feel free to share it.

B. Sunday's Message.

Sunday Pastor Lamar started a 5-week series on the life of David. One of the most interesting and conflicted, complicated, characters in scripture. In David we see the best of someone pursuing a life with God, and some of the worst life choices EVER. There are some incidents where we just see David's life go off the rails so significantly that we can't believe he's redeemable. And yet, we read that David was "*a man after God's own heart*".

What is it about David that makes him so special? What can we find from the habits, practices, and daily life of someone who was as flawed and messed up as anyone, and yet walked with God, that we can apply to our ordinary, everyday, walking around life?

Lamar started us off with some background on David, the end of his life and also where and how he started. We learned he was the low person in his family, the one least considered, not even included with the family, and yet it was David that Samuel realized was going to be the next king of Israel.

C. Scripture.

Read the account of the anointing of David by Samuel in **1 Samuel 16:1-13**, and wrestle with the following thoughts.

Why was Samuel reluctant to anoint a new king and what do you think he was feeling?

What were the instructions from God to Samuel in anointing a new king?

Why are these instructions important?

Why do you think David wasn't with the rest of his brothers?

What does this say about David?

David wasn't even old enough to serve in the military when Samuel anointed him, and it would be 15 years before David would even ascend to the throne. 15 YEARS!! We need to wrap our mind around the implications of that fact. David was promised something but would not see it for awhile.

Lamar said that the years up to the age of 15, and the 15 years following that David spent hiding out and running from the current king Saul, who was threatened by David's popularity and tried to kill him, were essential in preparing him to be king.

David was living in his 'wilderness' waiting until he was ready to be king.

So let's talk about this waiting, or period in the 'wilderness'.

What is the difficulty of waiting, of being in the wilderness?

What is the importance of waiting/wilderness?

What does waiting/wilderness do for us?

There is a preparation, a strengthening, that happens when we find ourselves having to wait in a really tough place, often in that 'meanwhile' time. That place between what was that is now over, and that 'next' that hasn't happened yet. Often we sit and complain about being stuck, but maybe we're missing a great work that could be done within us during that wilderness waiting moment.

Lamar referenced Brené Brown and her book ***"Braving the Wilderness"***, and three things we need to get thru life, face the difficulties and challenges of life, and come from our time in the wilderness.

They are;

1. Growing a strong back. The ability to stand against, and sometimes alone, for important things.

2. Developing a soft front. Learning to be vulnerable, trust and be open to those important to you.

3. Cultivate a wild heart. The ability to perfect a vision to see, and the courage to act on, the wrongs in the world that need to be made right.

Let's talk about each in the life of David so then we can see how to use them in our lives.

How did each of these help David to lead?

What does it take for us to grow each?

What can we learn from each of them?

Braving the wilderness is not just about speaking truth.

It's easy to be a jerk because your beliefs are more important than people.

How do we do these well?

How do we do these in the right way?

Lamar closed by saying sometimes the passion we feel, the desire to right wrongs, will invite trouble and criticism. We have to learn to 'toughen' ourselves up, to be able to withstand those who may and will be offended by what we are standing up for. **But we have to learn to 'brave the wilderness' to stand, sometimes along, but do it in a way that adds to the good of all.**

This is such an honorable and difficult calling. This is an Old Testament passage so it is not intended to be a prescription of the how to carry out what we believe God is calling us to do. It is an example of someone, David, doing it in the period of time he was living in, and we have to consider and understand the context.

But what we can learn from this passage and the life of David, is the truth that has not changed is we will be called to stand up for the things of God. And those difficult times, the waiting, the wilderness, can be a personal preparation for us to do this really well. One that makes a difference in our world and draws people to God.