

THE DARK ROOM

DEVELOPING FAITH IN GOD'S TIMING

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1 Samuel 16:1-13 NLT

INTRODUCTION: (Regular Lighting) Happy Father's Day to all of the fellas in the house! Today it's all about the guys. Thank you to every man who is being a father figure to someone. We appreciate, celebrate & honor all of you today.

People need the affirmation in order to step into the blessing that God has. Built in on the inside of all of us, we're wired for affirmation today. Before you were formed in your mother's womb, you were known by God.

Everyone, tell your neighbor: **You Are Enough** & the reason why I'm saying that today is because there are places where you feel like you are not enough. So my desire for you on this Father's Day is for you to walk out of here knowing that you are enough... In order to do that today, I want to walk you through a visual illustration of the process & what I've titled, "The Dark Room."

ILLUSTRATION: THE DARK ROOM (Switch to Dark Room with Props)

What is a **Dark Room**? A Dark Room was used to process photographic film, making prints and other visual illustrations. This room was made completely dark to allow the processing of light sensitive photographic materials, including film and photographic paper. Inside a dark room, You would have found an enlarger, paper, a safelight, developing stations filled with chemicals to process and develop photos and red or amber color lighting...

They would print the roll of film on contact prints, then processed through immersion, then a stop bath, followed by a photographic fixer. The print was then washed to remove the processing chemical & dried. Some additional processes also included toning...

Today we're going to jump in and talk about the process of a **Dark Room** with Jesse & David.

Here we have the people of Israel, who so desperately wanted a king to lead them. So God used the prophet Samuel to anoint for them a man named Saul. Saul started out well but then began to be disobedient, fearful & full of pride. Ignoring the instructions from God through the prophet Samuel, removing himself from the blessing of God leading to the selection of a new king.

1 Samuel 16:1-13 NLT

*1 Now the Lord said to Samuel, “**You have mourned long enough** for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, **so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king.**”*

Now when I read the Bible, I love to study the passage & understand how it is wrapped. What’s happening before & after & what is being communicated to me now. How many of you know that Names have meaning? They are important!

The Lord is saying to Samuel, it’s time to stop mourning... Like the people of Israel, some of us had dreams & desires that we thought would dictate how God would act. Yet they’ve not turned out the way they should. Maybe some of us have things or people that are not leading us to honor God but further from Him. Maybe some of us have stuff that we’ve laid our stake in the ground wishing & hoping for things to be different. Maybe we’re mourning because people, places or situations are not like what they used to be. Maybe your financial security is not where you wanted it to be. Maybe you’re looking in the mirror feeling like you’ve missed out & that opportunities have passed you by. Maybe you’ve lost all hope. Just like God said to Samuel, you have mourned long enough... It’s time to fill up your flask with oil & go!

It’s time to allow God to give you new life, hope, energy, purpose... It’s time to allow God to empower you for the days ahead. To understand that you’re not finished. He’s not done with you & that your best days are yet to come. Holy Spirit fill us anew today so that we can go!

What does Bethlehem mean? House of Bread

In John 6:35, Jesus says that He is the Bread of Life. It was in this small town that Gentiles were married in the Jewish nation by the example of Ruth & Boaz. Jesus was born for the world to hunger no more...

*2 But Samuel asked, “How can I do that? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.” “Take a heifer with you,” the Lord replied, “and say that you have come to make a sacrifice to the Lord. **3** Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you which of his sons to anoint for me.” **4** So Samuel did as the Lord instructed. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town came trembling to meet him. “What’s wrong?” they asked. “Do you come in peace?”*

5 “Yes,” Samuel replied. “I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Purify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” Then Samuel performed the purification rite for Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice, too.

Who was Jesse?

Jesse’s lineage can be traced all the way back to Abraham. God chose Abraham & promised that all the nations of the world would be blessed. Boaz from the book of Ruth, demonstrates God’s love & redemption by marrying Ruth. Jesse, the grandson to Ruth comes into the picture here...

He was a farmer & shepherd. In Isaiah, Jesse is mentioned as a stump from which Jesus would come from to be the Savior of the world. In Micah, it identifies Bethlehem as the little town of Jesse. Jesse shares in the line that would be connected to God’s salvation for everyone.

*6 When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, “Surely this is the Lord’s anointed!” **7** But the Lord said to Samuel, “**Don’t judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.**”*

8 Then Jesse told his son Abinadab to step forward & walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "This is not the one the Lord has chosen." **9** Next Jesse summoned Shimea, but Samuel said, "Neither is this the one the Lord has chosen." **10** In the same way **all seven** of Jesse's sons were presented to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these."

HOW WE SEE & PROCESS THINGS IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THAN WHAT GOD SEES

Are there things in our lives that we thought we had a handle on that we've missed?

Are there situations & moments that God is walking us through right now in the **Dark Room** that maybe require us to step back, asking God what is it that you want me to see?

God give us your heart! Help us to know that things aren't always measured by what we can see, touch or feel but by the heart. Help us Lord, to not miss out on opportunities because we were too focused to see what You are doing!

11 Then Samuel asked, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse replied. "But he's out in the fields watching the sheep and goats." "Send for him at once," Samuel said. "We will not sit down to eat until he arrives."

David wasn't even invited into the party but they were looking for him. The whole entire process was stopped because David wasn't even in the room... **Change happens when you're present!**

GOD SHOWS HIS FAVOR FOR YOU IN HIDDEN MOMENTS

His father, Jesse was describing David by his condition. The one who knew him the most talked about him by what he had done.

Don't get so caught up in the doing & forget about the knowing.

Our kids need to be remembered by our relationships, not by their accomplishments. People want to be known not what they're known for. That goes for life in general.

12 So Jesse sent for him. He was dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes. And the Lord said, "**This is the one; anoint him.**" **13** So as David stood there among his brothers, **Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David from that day on.** Then Samuel returned to Ramah.

David was forgotten about but God knew... He saw him! He said this is the one, anoint him. If you feel like you were missed or forgotten about, know that God sees you. Don't forfeit the plans that God has for you by removing yourself out of the equation. Only you can make a difference in the places that God has placed you. Only you can have the the moments to pour into and love the people that God puts in your life. But Pete, you don't know... I missed it... I failed... I struggle... People may even get frustrated because they cannot move forward until you show up.

You are the reason why somethings cannot move forward. You are the very one that God wants to use to bring change.

Even though we may be in the Dark Room, there is a new faith that is on the rise. A reminder of truth, love & encouragement that can only come from God. What other things can we learn from this passage today?

GODLY OPPORTUNITIES ARE FOUND IN THE SHADOWS

David was anointed King in private. His opportunities were found in the process. Who likes process? Most of us dislike the Dark Room because of the "Time" that it takes to develop the process. Where's my Door Dash opportunity? Where's my same day delivery with Amazon Prime? Some of us think that God's purpose needs to be developed in no more than two days. We stay faithful for a week & then wonder why God didn't come through.

Now here's the deal... **Salvation happens within an instant but Sanctification is a Process!** We all have stuff & some of those things take time... But what about those who hated on me? Those who forgot about me? They gotta know. Guess what they're gonna know, but only when God says.

Where did David go after he was anointed? He want back into the field...

YOUR STRUGGLES BECOME YOUR STRENGTHS

When no one is watching you... Your weakness can become your strength. Your struggles are not supposed to knock you out. You're not supposed to struggle & walk in defeat. You may have been hurt, but your purpose will develop your strengths. God continue to develop our heart (Character)!

Psalm 73:26 NLT

My health may fail & my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart...

YOUR CHARACTER CAN BE PERFECTED UNTIL IT'S READY

Before David was a king, he was a shepherd, a musician, a writer & he was skilled with a slingshot. Long before David faced Goliath, he faced a lion & a bear!

Some of us are trying so hard to prove ourselves to the world before it's time... Do you find yourself struggling to make a dream come true that maybe God isn't even in?

It's not about being famous... It's about developing your character. It's about developing your craft. Some of us want to be great but we don't even put the work in!

Exodus 35:10 NLT

Come, all of you who are gifted craftsmen. Construct everything that the Lord has commanded:


Can we learn to be content right where we are in the **Dark Room**? Can we allow God to develop our Character & Refine who we are?

CLOSING

GOD DEVELOPS YOUR NEGATIVES IN THE DARK ROOM

ILLUSTRATION: Camera film...

The Developer knows what he's doing... Because if any light were to get on the imprint... It would overexpose the image, throwing off of the identity it was supposed to have. We've all got stuff & maybe you've wondered & forgotten what God has given to you... Can you get back into the **Dark Room**? Can you get back into the presence of God? Allowing God to develop you. Allowing God to show the world who He is in & through you.



Your best days are in front of you... God will give you new purpose & opportunities if you get the right perspective.

Don't force your way out of the **Dark Room** until it's time... David sought the face of God. He continued to do the last thing that the Lord had instructed him to do...

And when it was time what happened? They sent for Him!
(Making a delivery for his brothers who were in the battle...)

Jesus also went through a few dark room experiences...

When he was a kid preaching in the synagogues...
When he was baptized & then spent 40 days / nights in the wilderness...
When he was praying in the garden the night he was arrested...

If David and Jesus went through the Dark Room... who are you to think otherwise?

Who are we? Who am I to think differently?

Close with special moment for all the guys... Followed by a moment where they can pray and bless others as well...