



sermon highlights

STICKS AND STONES WEEK TWO: ABILITY

Pastor Ruben continued the Sticks & Stones series, which presents five “secret weapons” to make our Resolutions more than words. This week’s secret weapon was “Ability.”

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

1 Samuel 16:13-23 ! ! Proverbs 18:16! ! 1 Corinthians 15:10 (NLT)!

DILIGENCE

-Pastor Ruben opened his sermon on ability by saying, “Unfortunately, many people separate spirituality from skill... What’s dangerous is that God deposits gifts within us that we may never develop... What you are is God’s gift to you. What you become is your gift to God.”

-God will uniquely tailor your gifts to fit the assignment He gives you, but it’s our responsibility to develop God’s deposit. It is not enough to simply love God and give back to Him our halfhearted efforts.

-Before David became King, he served as both a shepherd and later as a harpist for King Saul. Because God anointed David as a talented musician and David spent the time and energy to grow as a harpist, God blessed him with the opportunities he needed to become the king he called Him to be.

-As Pastor Ruben preached, “While you can’t put in what God left out, you must work out what God’s put in... God can only work through what we’ve worked on.”

EXCELLENCE

-As Pastor Ruben preached, “If we’re going to claim something is for God, it ought to be good.”

-When we are committed to excellence and work diligently to develop the deposit God has placed within us, we’re able to offer our lives back to God as the fullest expression of the person God created us to be.

-Theologian Martin Luther once said, “The maid who sweeps her kitchen is doing the will of God just as much as the monk who prays--not because she may sing a Christian hymn as she sweeps but because God loves clean floors. The Christian shoemaker does his Christian duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes, because God is interested in good craftsmanship.”

-God is not interested in us doing just anything and claiming it as being done for the glory of God. Because our God is great and He is alive within us, He wants us to do things **well** for the glory of God.

-David was positioned to play the harp for Saul because he was first positioned to play when no one was looking, where his skills to the point where he could honor both God and Saul with his playing.

UNIQUENESS

-When the time came for David to fight Goliath, King Saul considered David to be a mighty warrior--not because of his fighting skills, but because of his excellence as a harpist. Pastor Ruben challenged us to see that we will often discover our callings in the midst of our contradictions.

-As Pastor Ruben preached, “If you don’t realize that your uniqueness is often the emergence of what makes you effective, you will spend all your life trying to fit a mold and missing the meaning of what God uniquely put inside of you.”

-Pastor Ruben went on to say, "At the intersection of our idiosyncrasies is our effectiveness." Instead of apologizing for the parts of us that don't make sense, we can offer them to God and ask Him to make something out of them that would become our unique expression of thankfulness to God.

EXPERIENCE

-Ultimately, David's decision to simply do his job with diligence, excellence and with the uniqueness of his ability are what prepared him to fulfill one of his greatest purposes--defeating Goliath.

-God will arrange every experience to serve His purpose in the world. He takes everything that we've been through and every lesson that we've learned, pairs it with our faithfulness in serving God and developing His deposits, and uses it all to accomplish His purposes.

-If we embrace every experience God wants to bring us through, God will stack our skills together to achieve something far greater than anything we could ever form on our own.