



June 11, 2023 - Pastor Rafael Aristy

Stewarding Your Identity

King David wasn't always a king. He didn't start his life as royalty. He was a shepherd boy; the youngest son of Jesse of Bethlehem, with 7 older brothers.

God had rejected Saul as King of Israel and sent Samuel the prophet to Bethlehem to anoint one of Jesse's sons as the next king. (1 Samuel 16) Jesse had his 7 older sons go before Samuel, but God's chosen wasn't among them. So Samuel asked, "Are these all your sons?" Jesse answered, "There is still the youngest, but he is tending the sheep." The prophet told Jesse to send for him and when David arrived, God said, "rise and anoint him; he is the one."

David was the youngest in a patriarchal society. It was the first born who received the blessing, the oldest who inherited the benefits and the responsibilities. **David is the eighth born!** Also, he is in eyesight of the prophet of God being invited into his family's home, yet David was not called for or invited.

Samuel see's David, obeys God, and anoints him as king. After David is anointed, he went back to the fields to take care of his father's sheep. While this does not seem like kingdom work, **David was doing what was needed/required of him in the season he was in. He stayed committed!**

This is what it means to steward your identity. **The focus is on who you are becoming.**

Sometimes we think **more** about **what** we are doing and not about **who** we are becoming. Be faithful where God has you. **What you're doing now is preparing you for who will be later.**

- *Do you know how it feels to be forgotten? Overlooked?*
- *What things do you need to remind yourself daily to stay committed?*
- *Who are you becoming?*

David was becoming a king.

Jesse's three oldest sons go to battle with Saul's army as Israelites face the Philistines.

1 Samuel 17:1-16

- David's father sends him to Saul's army camp with some roasted grain, loaves of bread, and cheeses and asks him to bring word back.
- When David gets there, Goliath, the Philistine's champion, is taunting the army of Israel. This had been going on for 40 days and nights.

1 Samuel 17:32-37

David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth." But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you."

Have you ever been told "You can't do it!"?

- Walt Disney was fired from the Kansas City Star in 1919 because, according to his editor, he "lacked imagination and had no good ideas."
- Oprah Winfrey was an evening news reporter and was fired because she couldn't remove her emotions from her stories.
- Michael Jordan was cut from his high school basketball team because his coach said he wasn't good enough.

- Sylvester Stallone had been rejected over 1,500 times by talent scouts, agents and most others in the film industry. People told him he talked funny, walked funny and couldn't act.
- Lionel Messi is widely considered to be one of the best soccer players in the world. Messi was cut from his junior soccer team because he was told he was too short to play.

Like these people, David was told, "You can't do it!"

- David was told he was too young and that Goliath had been a warrior all his life. Saul was the instrument that challenged David's identity. **YOUR IDENTITY WILL BE CHALLENGED.**

Don't let the person hiding in the tent tell you what you can't do!

- *What label has disqualified you?*
- *Whose words have kept you from God's purpose for your life?*

Don't let the person hiding in the tent tell you what you can't do.

Satan is not only after your definition of who God is to you, he is also after *who you tell yourself* you are. If he can rob you of your identity as a child of God, he can rob you of *your assignment and purpose*.

Who you think you are will greatly impact what you do and what you don't do. **You will act according to who you think you are!**

Proverbs 23:7 "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he."

You must steward your identity! You must guard it, manage it, and take care of it. We must steward our identity **in the season we are in.**

David shares his resumé with king Saul:

"But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it."

David's resumé tells us how he views himself: "I did my job when no one was around. I could've gone the easy route, but I didn't. I could've quitted when things got hard, but I didn't."

Being a shepherd doesn't qualify you for war, **or does it?**

- It does not qualify you if you're the type of shepherd that runs from trouble, or lets the lion and bear kill the sheep.
- But that was not David! He was willing to lay down his life for the sheep.
- The sheep were not more important than his own life, yet he put his life on the line because that was his identity.

David chose to be faithful in the menial job of tending sheep and he gave **everything** to it. Nothing was insignificant. When a lion or a bear carried off a sheep, David went after it. He didn't run away from the struggle or from the difficult circumstances- he faced them! ***This is what it means to steward your identity!***

What you are going through in this season is preparing you for the next. The trials of today will become the victories of tomorrow. Think in terms of your life as a dad, mom, husband, wife, son, daughter, student, or worker:

- *Who are you when no one else is looking?*
- *What does it mean for you to live your identity in the context of the life God has called you to steward?*
- *What task feels too menial for you in this season?*
- *How does it impact the way you see yourself?*

17:36 "Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God."

Some may think you're not qualified, but they have no idea what you've had to overcome to be where you are. David tells King Saul what he has done. **He tells him who he believes he is.** He shares his identity.

17:37 "The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

David attributed his past victories to God, and he now believes that God will do it again! David had a job to do, and he was all about it. This was reinforced by what he believed about God and how he had determined he would live.

- Do you know that because God said so the sky and earth were created?
- Do you know that because God said so vegetation sprouted?
- Do you know that because God said so stars and planets were formed?
- Do you know that because God said so living creatures populated land, sea, and sky?
- Do you know that because God said so YOU are made in His image?**

*"Faith is acting like something is **so**, even when it is **not so**, in order that it might be so **simply because God said so.**"*

-Dr. Tony Evans

Only God has the right to declare who you are, because He created you, and payed the price to define you!

When things don't go well, according to plan or become difficult, we have a tendency to quit, make excuses or choose not to care. David was **ALL IN** even when situations became dangerous or disappointing.

- *Think about some of the most difficult things you do/face every day. How do you face it?*
- *Who will you be when difficulties come your way? Will you compromise? Will you stay true to who you are?*
- *What 2-3 things can you practice daily to reinforce your identity within your context (mom, dad, husband, etc)?*