

The Shaping of a King

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Your private history with God shapes your public life.

Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand...all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷ and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand." 1 Samuel 17:45-47 ESV

Even after great spiritual victories, self-reliance can creep back into our lives.

Now one of Saul's servants was there that day, detained before the Lord; he was Doeg the Edomite, Saul's chief shepherd. ⁸ David asked Ahimelek, "Don't you have a spear or a sword here? I haven't brought my sword or any other weapon, because the king's mission was urgent." ⁹ The priest replied, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, is here; it is wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you want it, take it; there is no sword here but that one." David said, "There is none like it; give it to me." 1 Samuel 21:7-9

*How God chisels our lives...***Painful consequences** (1 Samuel 22:18-22; 23:1-9)

- Pay attention to the scars your sin leaves.

Fearful circumstances (1 Samuel 23:15-18)

- Pay attention to the voices God sends.

Foolish confrontations (1 Samuel 25:10-13, 26-32)

- Pay attention to the people God uses to check your sinful impulses.

Through consequences, circumstances, and confrontations, God was shaping and preparing David to be a king who was dependent on God.

...But David found strength in the Lord his God. ⁷ Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelek, "Bring me the ephod." Abiathar brought it to him, ⁸ and David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them?" 1 Samuel 30:6-8

Let's Talk About It

In David's life, God's unseen current was shaping a king – not on a throne, but in caves, deserts, and conflicts. God's formation in our lives is not random – it's tailor-made to dismantle self-reliance and build trust in God. David's story reminds us that spiritual growth comes from facing life's giants and depending on God, not ourselves. Pain, fear, and confrontation teach us lessons, reveal sin's scars, and guide us toward God. In 1 Samuel 30, David stops relying on his own strength and seeks strength in God. God's shaping grace in David's life moved from fear and impulsiveness to dependence on God.

1 Samuel 17:8-10; 45-47; 21:7-9, 22:18-22; 23:1-9, 15-18; 25:10-13, 26-32; 30:6-8

Discussion questions:

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read 1 Samuel 21:7-10, 45-47. Discuss how David's response in this situation differed from how he responded with Goliath. When are you tempted to take matters into your own hands instead of trusting in God? Is there a situation you're avoiding out of fear that God is calling you to trust Him in?
- What practical step can you take today to seek God's guidance before making a decision? Who can you go to for godly counsel when you're tempted to act impulsively?
- What daily habit or rhythm could help you recognize God's voice more clearly?
- Read 1 Samuel 30:1-8. Where are you currently relying on your own strength instead of God's? What does it look like to strengthen yourself in God? How do you know if you're following the will of God or just asking God to bless your will?

Take a Step

Ask God to show you how to find strength in Him. Surrender your plans to God and trust that His will is the safest place for you to be.

Here's My Prayer

Father, thank You for giving me Your strength. I choose to remember Your faithfulness. I worship You for who You are – the awesome, mighty God. Help me to cultivate my relationship with You so when I'm tempted to give up or take matters into my own hands, Your strength will rise up in me to sustain me. In Jesus' name, amen.