

Life of David - Part 1

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Introduction.

- A. In thinking about how to portray the life of faith, I couldn't think of a better person to look at than David.
- B. David shows us his life from an autobiographical perspective.
- C. What is it like to experience God over a lifetime?
- D. Old Testament stories were recorded to give us encouragement and hope. (Romans 15:4-6)
 - 1. These stories were often written in difficult circumstances.
 - 2. David had a commitment to communicate.
 - 3. Jesus told believers to take heed what they listen to.
 - 4. We need endurance to experience God over a lifetime.
 - 5. We all get to where we need significant endurance.
 - 6. The endurance and encouragement of the Scriptures gives hope.
 - 7. It is an expectation that God is going to do something incredible.
 - 8. God gives us endurance and encouragement.
- E. I have been wrestling with what to do around the world.
 - 1. New Zealand needs a revival for its young people to understand God.
 - 2. What is it going to take to bring the Gospel to these young people?
- I. The life of David brings hope to all of us.
 - A. David grew up in a time when the nation needed God desperately.
 - 1. God was looking for someone through whom he could work. (2 Chronicles 16:9)
 - 3. The end of the time of judges leaves one wondering if God could even redeem the nation.
 - 4. Samuel was a great man but he could not do the job.
 - 3. God finds a man in David whom he took from tending sheep. (Psalm 78:72-73)
 - B. I heard many messages in Navigators about a man standing in the gap. (Ezekiel 22:30)

1. Saul was removed for David to come into position. (Acts 13:32)
2. God is looking for men and women he can trust.
3. We must be determined to get into our heart what is on God's heart or we will miss what the Lord wants to do.
4. The Bible is a record of God touching the lives of individuals so that he can use them in the way he wants to.
5. We need to realize that God is still looking for people committed to him.
6. D. L. Moody committed himself to God.
7. God saw a shepherd boy in David and chose him to lead his people because he was trustworthy.
8. Whatever role you are in at present, realize that God can use you as you commit yourself to him.
9. God has great purposes for what he wants to do in New Zealand.
10. We each must be willing to be totally dedicated to God and go where he wants us to go, regardless of our age.

C. Overview of this message.

1. We will look briefly at the first part of David's life. (1 Samuel 16 to 1 Samuel 30)
2. Later we will look at the latter part of his life.
3. One thing for sure is that David knew God personally.
4. In killing Goliath David cried that the battle was the Lord's.
 - a. God does not depend on human means but God does use human means.
 - b. David's five stones reveal his dependence on God.
 - c. We also should collect stones, in a sense, to accomplish God's will.
 - d. Sometimes we even fight with one another over strategy but this is wrongheaded.
 - e. How was David so confident?
 - f. My own confidence has been shaken lately, perhaps because I underestimated the difficulty of the task.

- g. David's confidence seems to have come from his choice to fight the lion and the bear, and his reflection on creation.
- 5. Are there young people today that are laying a foundation of intimacy with God like David did?
- 6. David understood by Samuel's anointing that God intended to make him king. (1 Samuel 16)
- 7. First Samuel 18 to 30 is a downhill spiral and 1 Samuel 30 is the low point in David's life.
- 8. David's relationship with Saul and Jonathan is explored, and how we handle relationships is crucial. (1 Samuel 18-19)
 - a. One was a difficult relationship.
 - b. One was a good relationship.
 - c. We all have these good and difficult relationships and how we handle them reveals what's in our hearts.
 - d. Saul became jealous of David. (1 Samuel 18:9)
 - e. When Saul compared himself with David he opened a door that he could never close.
 - f. Judas was similar in that he began pilfering money from the cash box.
 - 1. This led to great transgression.
 - 2. Even if he intended to pay it back his sin opened a door that he could not close.
 - g. Satan is looking for a way into our lives, and unhealthy relationships give him a foothold from which to work.
 - h. David and Abishai found Saul in a vulnerable position but David would not let Abishai kill Saul as only the Lord could remove Saul. (1 Samuel 26)
 - i. David's relationship with Saul was dominated by his knowledge of God.
 - j. Saul recognized the superiority of David that day, yet he could not stay with his commitment to do David no harm.
 - k. David understood what God required of him in this relationship with Saul.
 - 1. We need to deal with difficult relationships very seriously, seeking reconciliation.

1. Jesus says that even anger against a brother puts one in danger of hell (Matthew 5:21)
 2. We are to make friends with our accusers.
 3. Verbal abuse does not suit who we are.
 4. Reconciliation suits who we are.
- m. David felt free to speak his mind about Saul only with God himself.
1. When Saul killed the priests he wrote Psalm 52.
 2. He pours out his heart only before God.
 3. He also takes fault for the killings because he had a hunch that the Edomite would tell Saul.
- n. David's relationship with Jonathan was a good one. (1 Samuel 23:16)
1. The Lord watch between you and me speaks of intimacy.
 2. Who do you go to when in serious trouble?
 3. We all need Jonathans when experiencing God over a lifetime.
 4. During David's sin with Bathsheba it is tragic that he had no Jonathan.
 5. Most mid-life men that fail morally do so because of no accountability.
 6. Are you a Jonathan to someone else?
 7. God is pleased when we are committed to each other.
9. David goes to Philistine to seek refuge from Saul, which was a mistake, but after this episode the low point of his life comes on him when the Amalikites burn Ziklag (1 Samuel 30:1).
- a. During this time David finds strength in the Lord his God.
 - b. After pulling himself together he persuades his men to not despair and to even pursue the Amalikites.
 - c. God miraculously leads them to a dying Egyptian who tells them where the Amalikites are and they win a great battle.
 - d. We all get to rock bottom sometime and we need to know how to find strength in the Lord even when there is no Jonathan around.
 - e. David's method of strengthening himself in the Lord is interesting because we don't know exactly what he did.

f. Psalm 31 may be a reflection of this time in David's life.

1. He takes refuge in God.
2. God is his rock and fortress.
3. David pleads for God's leading out of the trap he is in.
4. David commits himself to God's hands.
5. He affirms his confidence that God is unshakable.
6. He confesses that God is a God of truth.
7. His refuge in the Lord is the bottom line of this psalm.

g. We will all at some time in our ministries need to strengthen ourselves in the Lord.

1. Psalm 31 ends by instructing the believer to be strong in the Lord.
2. This is advice for all of us.