

LESSONS FROM DAVID PART 2

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27.10.18

There is a lot of history in the Bible — written down for “our admonition”. There is much we can learn from the experiences of real people — the good ... the bad ... and the ugly.

We’re currently looking at the life of David to see what we can learn. David ... a man after God’s own heart ... mentioned over 1,100 times ... more often than Abraham and Moses.

We started with Saul. Israel’s first king. God originally intended to establish his dynasty after him. That was the original plan.

But —

Although he was “little in his own eyes” to begin with ... he became puffed up. Self-important.

The weaknesses we saw:

- Disobedient
- Made excuses
- Stubborn
- Blamed others
- Self-important
- Little evidence of repentance
- Fearful of men

The lessons for us were to — remain humble ... be quick to repent and admit error ... watch out for fear of other’s opinions.

Let’s move on.

We were introduced to David last week. He was the youngest of Jesse’s sons — out in the fields looking after the sheep — not even invited to attend

Samuel's "Feast"! But —chosen by God — anointed by Samuel to be king (though not understood by Jesse and the rest).

Being the youngest of 8 ... and doing a servant's job — probably helped keep David humble?

But also had plenty of time — to ponder life ... look at the stars ... take care of defenceless animals. Jesus says he is "The Good Shepherd" — so David's role as a shepherd was very helpful.

1 Samuel 16:11-13

11 **And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep."** And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here."

12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. **And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!"**

13 **Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward.** So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

David anointed. But not king now.

1 Samuel 16:14-23

14 **But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.** (*black moods appear in Saul's life*)

15 And **Saul's servants said to him, "Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you.**

16 "Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to **seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well.**"

17 So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me."

18 Then one of the servants answered and said, "**Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valour, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him.**"

19 Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep."

20 And Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by his son David to Saul.

21 So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer.

22 **Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight."**

23 And so it was, **whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.**

Saul has black moods. Music can help or hinder our moods ... most people recognise that. Music is a powerful force on the mind and body. Some positive ... some negative.

It is no surprise to see later how David wrote so many Psalms? He was a gifted musician!

God has orchestrated events to bring David into the royal court. That will be useful for him in later years.

A major event in David's life — shot him to fame. His famous battle against Goliath!

1 Samuel 17:1-11

1 **Now the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle**, and were gathered at Sochoh, which belongs to Judah; they encamped between Sochoh and Azekah, in Ephes Dammim.

2 **And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and they encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array against the Philistines.**

3 **The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.**

4 **And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.**

5 He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze.

6 And he had bronze armour on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders.

7 Now the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels; and a shield-bearer went before him.

8 Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, "Why have you come out to line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me.

9 "If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us."

10 **And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together."**

11 **When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.**

All of Israel were afraid. They had their eyes on the physical. They weren't looking at God.

Some of David's brothers were in the army and so David was sent by Jesse with some supplies.

1 Samuel 17:23-37

23 Then as he (*David*) talked with them, there was the champion, **the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; and he spoke according to the same words. So David heard them.**

24 And **all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid.**

25 **So the men of Israel said,** "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel; and **it shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father's house exemption from taxes in Israel.**"

26 **Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (Loser!)**

27 And the people answered him in this manner, saying, "So shall it be done for the man who kills him."

28 Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."

29 And David said, "What have I done now? Is there not a cause?"

30 Then he turned from him toward another and said the same thing; and these people answered him as the first ones did.

31 Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported them to Saul; and he sent for him.

32 **Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."**

33 And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock,

35 "I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it.

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

37 **Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."** And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

"Uncircumcised" = no contract! YOU ARE A LOSER!

David was interested in the benefits! Not just super pious!

But ... he had faith. Goliath was an insult to Jehovah. Not acceptable.

Compare David to all the adult men of Israel. They had fear ... they walked by sight ... no trust in God (little knowledge of Him?)

Where did David get his knowledge of Jehovah ... the importance of the Covenant and its promises ... the help of God.

We can't be sure but it looks like it was his mother?!

Psalms 86:16

16 **Oh, turn to me, and have mercy on me!**
Give Your strength to Your servant,
And save the son of Your maidservant.

Psalms 116:16

16 **O LORD, truly I am Your servant;**
I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant; (His mother)
You have loosed my bonds.

It looks like David is off on his own now — they wish him well — but ...

1 Samuel 17:40-52

40 **Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.**

41 So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield went before him.

42 And **when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking.**

43 **So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.**

44 And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

45 **Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, 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, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.**

47 "Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for **the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands.**"

48 So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

49 Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.

50 **So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him.** But there was no sword in the hand of David.

51 Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

52 Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines as far as the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road to Shaaraim, even as far as Gath and Ekron.

Note: David ran at the giant. He is confident ... the battle “is the Lord’s”. But he doesn’t just sit at home ... praying ... HE TAKES ACTION — runs at Goliath ... HE BELIEVES GOD WILL BLESS “the work of his hands”.

Israel thought Goliath was so big they couldn’t beat him. David knew Goliath was so big ... HE COULDN’T MISS HIM!

We can’t just sit at home and wait for God to do things. It could be God is waiting for us ... He can’t bless the work of our hands if there aren’t any works!

Let’s look at Paul.

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

10 But **by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain;** but **I laboured more abundantly than they all,** yet not I, but **the grace of God which was with me.**

Paul laboured abundantly ... worked harder than any other of the apostles out there ... by grace. God is working with Paul.

Colossians 1:27-29

27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

29 **To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.**

Paul is labouring ... working flat out! Are we taking action or are we just sitting back waiting for God to do it all?

Back to David.

David's fame grew.

1 Samuel 18:5-7

5 So David went out wherever Saul sent him, and behaved wisely. And Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

6 Now it had happened as they were coming home, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments.

7 So **the women sang as they danced, and said:**

"Saul has slain his thousands,

And David his ten thousands." *(the Number 1 song in Israel 😊)*

1 Samuel 18:8-16

8 **Then Saul was very angry,** and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. **Now what more can he have but the kingdom?"**

9 **So Saul eyed David from that day forward.**

10 And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul's hand.

11 **And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!"** But David escaped his presence twice.

12 Now **Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, but had departed from Saul.**

13 Therefore Saul removed him from his presence, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.

14 And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD was with him. ***(He remained humble)***

15 Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, **he was afraid of him.**

16 **But all Israel and Judah loved David,** because he went out and came in before them.

Saul was now jealous of David. He would know by now that David was to be the future king. So ... humbly abdicate — let God's will be done?

No! Seek to kill God's anointed — for decades!

David remained humble ... despite his popularity. Always a test!

Eventually David had to flee for his life. He spent decades as a fugitive ... living in the wilderness and in caves.

So ... even though David was God's anointed ... it doesn't mean that everything in life will go smoothly — "red carpet treatment". Can you apply that in your life?

It is easy to get bitter. Impatient. Take matters into your own hands (help God out?).

Or — patiently trust God!!

There are a couple of good illustrations of David's patience ... trust and respect for the office of king.

1 Samuel 24:2-12

2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

3 So he came to the sheepfolds by the road, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to attend to his needs. (David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave.)

4 Then the men of David said to him, "This is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.' " And **David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe.**

5 Now **it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe.**

6 **And he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD."**

7 **So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way.**

8 **David also arose afterward, went out of the cave, and called out to Saul, saying, "My lord the king!"** And when Saul looked behind him, **David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed down.**

9 And David said to Saul: "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Indeed David seeks your harm'?"

10 "Look, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD delivered you today into my hand in the cave, and someone urged me to kill you. But my eye spared you, and I said, **'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD's anointed.'**

11 "Moreover, my father, see! Yes, see the corner of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the corner of your robe, and did not kill you, know and see that there is neither evil nor rebellion in my hand, and I have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life to take it.

12 **"Let the LORD judge between you and me, and let the LORD avenge me on you. But my hand shall not be against you."**

David protected Saul in the cave.

1 Samuel 24:17-22

17 **Then he said to David: "You are more righteous than I; for you have rewarded me with good, whereas I have rewarded you with evil."**

18 "And you have shown this day how you have dealt well with me; for when the LORD delivered me into your hand, you did not kill me.

19 "For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him get away safely? **Therefore may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day.**

20 **"And now I know indeed that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand."**

21 "Therefore swear now to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father's house."

22 So David swore to Saul. And Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

Saul "apologises" ... remorseful ... but not repentant! Soon he was pursuing David again.

We have to watch out too for "remorse" ... it is not the same as repentance. Remorse has a tendency to be temporary ... with no lasting change. Mostly emotion.

2 Corinthians 7:8-11

8 For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while.

9 **Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance.** For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.

10 **For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation,** not to be regretted; **but the sorrow of the world produces death.**

11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

Genuine sorrow — that led to change — to action.

That should be our response too. Not like Saul — tears and regret ... but then go and repeat the same mistakes all over again.

We mustn't confuse remorse with repentance.

Here is Saul later. Compare to David.

1 Samuel 26:1-2

1 **Now the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is David not hiding in the hill of Hachilah, opposite Jeshimon?"**

2 **Then Saul arose and went down to the Wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the Wilderness of Ziph.**

Saul is still pursuing David to kill him.

1 Samuel 26:7-17

7 **So David and Abishai came to the people by night; and there Saul lay sleeping within the camp, with his spear stuck in the ground by his head.** And Abner and the people lay all around him.

8 **Then Abishai said to David, "God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a second time!"**

9 **But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless?"**

10 David said furthermore, "As the LORD lives, the LORD shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish.

11 **"The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD's anointed. But please, take now the spear and the jug of water that are by his head, and let us go."**

12 **So David took the spear and the jug of water by Saul's head, and they got away; and no man saw or knew it or awoke.** For they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.

13 Now David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of a hill afar off, a great distance being between them.

14 And David called out to the people and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, "Do you not answer, Abner?" Then Abner answered and said, "Who are you, calling out to the king?"

15 **So David said to Abner, "Are you not a man? And who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not guarded your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy your lord the king."**

16 **"This thing that you have done is not good. As the LORD lives, you deserve to die, because you have not guarded your master, the LORD's anointed."** And now see where the king's spear is, and the jug of water that was by his head."

17 Then Saul knew David's voice, and said, "Is that your voice, my son David?" David said, "It is my voice, my lord, O king."

David demonstrates his principles ... his values ... even though his associates and circumstances could have led him otherwise.

1 Samuel 26:21-25

21 **Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David. For I will harm you no more, because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Indeed I have played the fool and erred exceedingly."**

22 And David answered and said, "Here is the king's spear. Let one of the young men come over and get it.

23 **"May the LORD repay every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today, but I would not stretch out my hand against the LORD's anointed."**

24 "And indeed, as your life was valued much this day in my eyes, so let my life be valued much in the eyes of the LORD, and let Him deliver me out of all tribulation."

25 **Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, my son David! You shall both do great things and also still prevail."** So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

David knew that one day Saul would die. But David is not taking any short cuts! Not going to “help” God’s plans along. “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, sayeth The Lord”. Romans 12.

Saul had taken matters entirely into his own hands. David left them in God’s hands ... knowing that God would exalt him in due time.

Till then: BE PATIENT AND TOUGH IT OUT!!