

JOURNEY TO THE VALLEY OF ELAH

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

Text:

Introduction:

No king in Israel's history was more loved, mentioned or compared to than David.

This man of God was used in a tremendous way to establish the faith of Israel, and bring this nation out of obscurity, into a world power.

Notice:

1. DAVID'S CALLING

1 Samuel 16:7-13

⁷ But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. ¹⁰ Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these. ¹¹ And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all *thy* children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we

will not sit down till he come hither. ¹² And he sent, and brought him in. Now he *was* ruddy, *and* withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this *is* he. ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

A. The Purpose of David's Calling

Note:

God sent Samuel down to the house of Jesse, for God had chosen among Jesse's sons the next king of Israel.

There are two reasons why a new king was being chosen:

- Because Saul was the king chosen of the people

1 Samuel 16:1

¹ And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

1 Samuel 8:5

⁵ And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

1 Samuel 15:11

¹¹ It repenteth me that I have set up Saul *to be* king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

- Because God was looking for a man after His own heart.

1 Samuel 16:7

⁷ But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

1 Samuel 13:14

¹⁴ But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him *to be* captain over his people, because thou hast not kept *that* which the LORD commanded thee.

We get a glimpse of David's heart in Psalms 23.

- A Believing Heart – “The Lord is My Shepherd”
- A Teachable Heart – “He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, He leadeth me besides still waters”
- A Holy Heart – “He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness”
- A Confident Heart – “Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil.”
- A Thankful Heart – “My cup runneth over”

- A Fixed Heart – Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life”

B. The Process of David’s Calling

- The selection of David was not based on physical attributes.

When Samuel came into Jesse’s house and saw Eliab he thought this was the next king. But God warned him in verse 7 to not look at the outward appearance, but that God was looking at the heart of the man, not his height or countenance.

They went through 7 sons of Jesse and God did not approve one. Then they called for David.

1 Samuel 16:12

¹² And he sent, and brought him in. Now he *was* ruddy, *and* withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this *is* he.

God is looking for people with a heart for God and a desire to follow His Word in obedience.

Illustration:

Robert Murray McCheyne wrote to a missionary friend just after his friend had been ordained and said, “In great measure, according to the purity and perfections of the instrument, will be the success. It is not great

talents God blesses so much as great likeness to Jesus. A holy minister is an awful weapon in the hand of God.”

- The sanctification of David

1 Samuel 16:13

¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

Samuel took the horn of oil and poured it over David's head. The oil was symbolic in the Old Testament of the Holy Spirit coming upon an individual to anoint with power, wisdom and ability to serve God in the capacity that He called them.

John 3:6-7

⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

1 Samuel 16:18

¹⁸ Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, *that is* cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD *is* with him.

Note—God also has given us His Spirit at salvation in part to empower us for the work to which He has called each one of us.

Ephesians 5:18

¹⁸ And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Acts 1:8

⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

2. DAVID'S CAUSE – 1 SAMUEL 17

A. His Cause For Faith

1 Samuel 17:43

⁴³ And the Philistine said unto David, *Am* I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

Note:

The threat of the enemy:

1 Samuel 17:1-8

¹ Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which *belongeth* to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephesdammim. ² And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines. ³ And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and *there was* a valley between them. ⁴ And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height *was* six cubits and a span. ⁵ And *he had* an helmet of brass upon his head, and he *was* armed with a coat of

mail; and the weight of the coat *was* five thousand shekels of brass. ⁶ And *he had* greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. ⁷ And the staff of his spear *was* like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head *weighed* six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him. ⁸ And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set *your* battle in array? *am* not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me.

1 Samuel 17:16

¹⁶ And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days.

Note the concern of David:

1 Samuel 17:21-29

²¹ For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army. ²² And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren. ²³ And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard *them*. ²⁴ And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid. ²⁵ And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, *that* the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel. ²⁶ And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who *is* this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? ²⁷ And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him. ²⁸ And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why

camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle. ²⁹ And David said, What have I now done? *Is there* not a cause?

Note—We must live for His cause in this day!

B. His Cause Was Challenged – vs. 28

1 Samuel 17:28

²⁸ And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

1. David was criticized by his brother

- Eliab had done nothing.

Someone once said:

“Let the man who says it cannot be done not disturb the man doing it.”

- Eliab criticized and questioned David’s integrity, motive, and ability.

2. David was challenged by Saul

1 Samuel 17:31-33

³¹ And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed *them* before Saul: and he sent for him. ³² And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. ³³ And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou *art but* a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

- He was challenged because he was a youth, a young lad. David was probably somewhere between 12 and 17. Goliath was over nine feet tall; his spear weighed 65 pounds.

Note:

Both men forgot one thing—the Lord God of Israel.

3. DAVID'S CONFLICT

David's battle draws nigh...

A. David's Preparation for Battle

1. By Previous Battles

1 Samuel 17:33-37

³³ And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou *art but* a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. ³⁴ And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: ³⁵ And I went out after him, and

smote him, and delivered *it* out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught *him* by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. ³⁶ Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷ David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

Note:

God uses every battle and trial in our lives to prepare us for greater usefulness.

2. With Proven Methods

1 Samuel 17:38-40

³⁸ And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. ³⁹ And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved *it*. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved *them*. And David put them off him. ⁴⁰ And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling *was* in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.

Note:

God's method's are always best.

Methods for the home

Methods for the church

1 Corinthians 1:27-29

²⁷ But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; ²⁸ And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: ²⁹ That no flesh should glory in his presence.

B. David's Power in Battle

1. David's trust was in the Lord

1 Samuel 17:45-47

⁴⁵ Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. ⁴⁶ This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle *is* the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

Note:

Goliath was the best the world could produce in weaponry, in a man, and in advantage. The world may

always look better prepared with more intelligence and stronger in might.

Note:

On the surface it always looks like Satan's Goliaths will prevail against God's people.

Note:

David made it clear that Goliath had defied Israel's God by mocking His armies, and now he would feel the sting of God's might!

2. David's desire was to glorify God

1 Samuel 17:46-47

⁴⁶ This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle *is* the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

C. David's Prevailing in Battle (vs. 48-51)

1 Samuel 17:48-51

⁴⁸ And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹ And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang *it*, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell

upon his face to the earth. ⁵⁰ So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but *there was* no sword in the hand of David. ⁵¹ Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

Note:

Goliath (verse 48) “arose.” But the moment David saw Goliath move, he himself began to run toward the giant (verse 48b).

Note:

It doesn't matter to God how many men He has for the battle, because the victory is not dependant upon man's power but God's power.

Psalm 115:1-3

¹ Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, *and* for thy truth's sake. ² Wherefore should the heathen say, Where *is* now their God? ³ But our God *is* in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

Matthew 19:26

²⁶ But Jesus beheld *them*, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Note:

We serve the same God that David did!

Close:

Sometimes we may feel outmanned.

Remember the second David is coming!

Isaiah 11:1-3

¹ And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: ² And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; ³ And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

Hebrews 1:8

⁸ But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness *is* the sceptre of thy kingdom.

Are you ready?

1 Peter 1:3-4

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,