

What we remember about David.

I dare say that are three things maybe four that if were asked about David we could remember.

First thing we remember probably most is his affair with Bathsheba. I don't start with that because it is the first, but chances are that is one story about him that even through it was not the best thing, but rather probably the worst it is none the less the first or second thing that we recall about his life.

The next thing we recall about David which maybe we would mention before the Bathsheba incident would be that David went up against and killed the giant Goliath.

The third thing we can recall about David is that he was chosen to be king.

Another would be that he was a Shepherd boy when he was called to king.

Now there were others, but I think these four may be the ones that come to our mind the most about David if we were asked to summarize his life.

So today I want to deal with these not necessarily in the order I started with and try to see what lessons from the life of David we can learn.

Let us start with looking at David the Shepherd boy.

1 Samuel 16:11 - So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

I don't know how long the process had been going on with Jesse's sons. Samuel came to anoint the next king. King Saul had not been the most righteous king at this time and so Samuel came to Jesse's house looking for the next king.

He had gone through all of David's brothers even thinking that surely one of those were it because Samuel was looking at the outward appearance, while God was looking at the heart.

So here they are seven sons had passed by and Samuel asks do you have another? He responds the youngest is out in the field tending the sheep.

It almost as though Jesse is saying. David he isn't that significant he is working tending the sheep surely he can't be the one you want.

Samuel you remember what you thought when the first one walked by look at verse 6

1 Samuel 16:6 - When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord."

Nope not him, next nope, next nope. Seven passed before him and each one God let Samuel know it wasn't

him. So we read in verse 11, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

I love this, it seems to me that Samuel is saying you know this may take a while let's just sit here until he comes.

Now David comes along and first sight I think of the Shania Twain lyric that says. "That don't impress me much."

Think about it this way Jesse didn't even think it was important enough to call David before hand to the meeting.

David was about 15 years of age when he was anointed to be king. And he didn't actually become king until he was 30. So for 15 years he just served knowing that he was next to the throne. And even after he was anointed king his brothers went off to war, where did David go? Back to tending sheep.

Here's a lesson we can learn from this, Some of your greatest victories in life will begin with being faithful in the small things. David being anointed king was a great promotion but it took 15 years for that promotion to take place.

God has a destiny for you and it may start when everyone sees you as an insignificant person, but God sees you in your field doing the task you were called to at this point in time. Don't worry in due season you will see it come to pass.

What was it about David that made him so unique? David learned to be obedient and serve from love. So many believers learn to be obedient from obligation.

I go to church because I feel obligated to do so, I give because I feel obligated to do so, I do this or that out of obligation.

Let me tell you church I serve the Lord not out of obligation, but out of love. As 1 John 4:19 tells us, We love because he first loved us.

So David learned to be faithful with the tasks he was given which propelled him to be anointed king.

See here's the thing I think it is important to take care of what is what in front of you before you get to what is ahead of you. Have you ever heard people say, "when I get to do this. . .you fill in the blank. Then I will be able to give it my all.

But let me say this, if you can't do that now what makes you think that you can do it then.

Listen I am waiting with a great expectation when I can say I pastor this church full time. But if I use that as an excuse in my prayer. If say to the Lord, ".when I can be in full time ministry, then I can spend more time with you, then I will have time to pray, then I will have time to study, then I will have time to. . .

Now on a certain level that may be true, but if I can't make time now and allow distractions to detour me. What makes me think I can do it later just because I'm doing something else. The same distractions will be there then as well.

If I can't minister now outside of the walls of the church, who am I to think I will change that then. I need to be faithful to what is in front of me so that it can propel me into my destiny. See so I need to make where I am right now my mission field so that it can propel me to my destiny.

And you need to do the same.

We are always given the option to do less, or we can do more. Showing up when the tasks seems small will prepare you for larger things when they surface.

So David was faithful as a Shepherd, before he did what we all probably think of first and that was when David stayed the giant.

Look how it started,

1 Samuel 17:1-11 - Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah. 2 Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. 3 The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them. 4 A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. 5 He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; 6 on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. 7 His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him. 8 Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. 9 If he is able to fight and kill me,

we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.” 10 Then the Philistine said, “This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.” 11 On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

Height six cubits and a span, that would be about 9 feet 9 inches tall.

Verse 5 - He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels;

Five thousand shekels about 125 lbs.

Verse 7 - His spear shaft was like a weaver’s rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels.

Six hundred shekels. That's about 15lbs. Just the iron point.

Get the point, he was weighted down with armor and weapons.

Let's continue, Jesse tells David go give something to eat to your brothers and while your there why don't you check out the battle.

So verses 20-23 tells us, Early in the morning David left the flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry. 21 Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. 22 David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they were. 23 As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it.

David going to take some things to his brothers hears this giant shouting his usual defiance.

At that moment something triggered in Davids spirit.

Verse 26 - David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

So what would be given verse 25 tells us that the king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel.

Well that's not so bad.

But check this out, verse 28 - When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle."

Eliab, Davids oldest brother the first one before Samuel when he went to anoint the next king. The one that everyone thought even Samuel was the one. This same one is now talking smack to the littlest brother and says, why did you come down here? I know how conceited you are.

I love how David responds, verse 29 - "Now what have I done?" said David. "Can't I even speak?"

Eliab maybe a little bitter that he wasn't selected as king.

Church hear this, there will be those that will be jealous of your calling, your anointing, and your destiny.

You just need to stay faithful to what God has called you too, no matter how big or small.

Verse 32 - David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

Now let me just tell the story Saul is thinking David do you know what you are saying? Goliath is a trained warrior, your a what? Oh ya a shepherd boy.

Saul had a lot riding on this battle remember what the giant said?

Verse 9 - If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.”

Saul was aware that if David lost this thing they would be servants to the Philistines. There is a lot riding on this battle.

David explains that when a lion went after the sheep David killed him, when a bear went after the sheep I took care of him as well.

See here's the thing church David was preparing for this battle while tending sheep.

We need to prepare for our battles before they come. We need to pray now, seek His face now, love God now. Prepare now.

So Saul agrees, but look what he does.

Verse 38 - Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head.

And David continues.

Verse 39 - David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off.

David says, "I'm not use to these things."

Here's a lesson in this, you and I cannot walk in someone else's anointing. We need to understand our calling, our destiny.

I'm not saying you can't do what another does, you just can't walk in their anointing. You are not a prophet because someone laid hands on you and spoke into your life. You become a prophet because God anointed you to be one. And you learn to walk out that destiny using what you know and learn, not what someone else gives you.

(Explain a little more here).

So look what David did.

Verse 40 - Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

David had practiced using the sling in the field while tending sheep. David became familiar with the sling.

If you want to be used by God, you need to become familiar with the presence of God. You need to spend

time with Him while your simply tending sheep so when the giant comes you already know who He is.

I think David realized that if he got to close to the giant where he had to fight hand to hand he would lose. So he had to take what he knew.

See here's the thing, "Sling stones could be hurled over 1,500 feet at speeds as fast as 250 miles per hour, depending on the skill of the slinger."

And look what it says in Judges chapter 20 verse 16.

Judges 20:16 - Among all these soldiers there were seven hundred select troops who were left-handed, each of whom could sling a stone at a hair and not miss.

So imagine if you will an egg sized rock being slung at 250 miles an hour while you are be charged by young man that looks like a boy.

David ran towards the giant, we need to learn to run towards our problems with the promises of God that we are victorious instead of in retreat if you are going to see your destiny fulfilled.

Let me share one more scripture with you about those who used slings it's found in 1 Chronicles 12:2 - they were armed with bows and were able to shoot arrows or to sling stones right-handed or left-handed; they were relatives of Saul from the tribe of Benjamin):

These were men that would help David as he ran from Saul who was trying to make sure that he never reached his destiny to be king.

We know the story David kills the giant cuts off his head with the giants own sword and becomes the hero of the day.

Here's the thing, David had to overcome the opposition not just of the giant, but of his older brother, Saul, and who knows what other barriers, but if you will be faithful to your

call, understand how to use what you have, understand the authority you walk in, you can win against the giants in your life.

Let me deal with just one more lesson about David.

The last familiar story we all know about David is that of Bathsheba.

Look what the Scripture tells us.

1 Kings 15:5 - For David had done what was right in the eyes of the Lord and had not failed to keep any of the Lord's commands all the days of his life—except in the case of Uriah the Hittite.

Do you know what happened to Uriah?

Uriah was the husband of Bathsheba when he came home from battle after the affair his wife had with David, David tried to cover up what he had done and wanted Uriah to go home and sleep with Bathsheba.

Uriah wouldn't do that so David sent him to the front lines and he was killed.

Listen I don't think for a moment that this was David's only sin, but because David had a heart after God when he did sin, he was quick to go to God and ask for him to forgive him.

As a matter of fact listen to this Psalm, it was written about this very incident after Nathan the prophet had come to him and gave him the correction he needed.

Psalm 51 - Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. 5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. 6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the

womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.
7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me,
and I will be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and
gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide
your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.
10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a
steadfast spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your
salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that
sinners will turn back to you. 14 Deliver me from the guilt of
bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my
tongue will sing of your righteousness. 15 Open my lips,
Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. 16 You do not
delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take
pleasure in burnt offerings. 17 My sacrifice, O God, is a
broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not
despise. 18 May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up
the walls of Jerusalem. 19 Then you will delight in the
sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

What can we learn here?

Isaiah 43:25 - I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.

Hebrews 8:12 - For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.

So what can we learn? God chooses not to remember your past, neither should you. Stop feeling shame, regret. If you have asked God to forgive you He is faithful and just to do just that.

David instead of beating himself up wrote Psalm 51.

Write your story for it may help someone else, ask forgiveness, and then simply remember what God said, and the promises He has.

Look what was said about David in Acts 13:22 - After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man

after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.

Here is the last lesson I think you need to understand. God nailed your past to the cross, he has provided you a new destiny.

Paul said it this way, Philippians 3:12-14 - Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Your legacy can be that like Davids, a man after God's own heart, he will do everything I want him to do.