

Sermon Notes for July 11, 2010

**Sermon Series On
The Life of David
A Life Of Great Success And Great Failure
“The Calling Of A Shepherd
Boy To Be King”
Selected Scriptures**

Introduction

A. We Begin A NEW SERMON SERIES ON DAVID TODAY

1. Chuck Swindoll –

“David.

Jesse’s youngest son. Youthful shepherd of Bethlehem. Giant-slayer. Teenaged king-elect. Composer of Psalms. Saul’s personal musician. Jonathan’s closest friend

David rose from hunted fugitive to Israel’s king. And he fell from champion in battle to aged and troubled monarch.

David – a man of glorious triumph, yet great tragedy. Uniquely gifted, but human to the core; strong in battle, but weak at home. **Why are we driven to study his life? It is because David isn’t a polished-marble personality. In fact, he is blood and bone and breath, sharing our struggles of spirit and soul.”**

2. The reason that I want to look at the life of David is this:

a. David is seen in Scripture as a “real man” with a “real life” with “real problems”

1. yes, he was chosen by God to be the King of Israel
2. yes, David wrote most of the Psalms
3. yes, David was used of God to bring in some of Israel’s greatest years as a nation
4. but, we will see that David was still a man
 - a. yes, a man of great successes
 - b. but, also a man of great failures

b. each of us will see ourselves in this study of the life of David

1. as we see his deep love of God
2. as well as his enormous problem with sin
3. this is reality both in David’s life as well as ours

B. We Will Look Today At GOD’S CALL OF DAVID TO BE KING OVER ISRAEL

1. Why did God choose David to be King?

- a. what was so “special” about David?
- b. what were the traits that God saw in David that He did not see in others?
- c. was David more spiritual, more talented than others?

2. We will look at some of the reasons that God chose David to be king.

C. Before We Look At DAVID, LET US LOOK AT WHY GOD CHOSE A KING AT ALL

1. During the days of Samuel the Prophet, Israel had no king.

- a. **God** was Israel’s King – and because of that, Israel “needed” no “physical king”

- b. however, as Samuel got older and the Israelites considered the lack of ability of Samuel's sons as future leaders, they asked for a king
I Samuel 8:5 – “They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.”
- c. essentially, Israel wanted to be like other nations, for other nations had kings; this was a type of “national peer pressure.”
- 2. So, God granted Israel's wishes and gave them a king.
 - a. Samuel chose a man by the name of Saul
 - 1. Saul's **father was impressive**
I Samuel 9:1a – “There was a Benjamite, a man of standing, whose name was Kish,”
 - 2. Saul, **himself was impressive**
I Samuel 9:2 – “He had a son named Saul, an impressive young man without equal among the Israelites--a head taller than any of the others.”
 - a. Saul may have been 6 feet tall
 - b. when the average height of an Israelite was about 5 feet tall.
 - c. Saul seemed the “obvious choice” for Israel's first king
 - b. Saul served Israel as king faithfully for 10 years . . .
 - 1. until he was told to completely destroy the ungodly Amalekites
I Samuel 15:3 – “Now go, attack the Amalekites and **totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.”**
 - 2. Saul did destroy the Amalekites, but kept their best cattle and sheep—notice when Samuel encountered Saul after the battle:
I Samuel 15:13-14 – “When Samuel reached him, Saul said, "The LORD bless you! I have carried out the Lord's instructions." But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?"
 - 3. because Saul did not do EXACTLY as God commanded, God rejected Saul as king over Israel.
 - 4. as a result, God would choose another to be king of Israel
 - a. who would God choose?
 - b. and why would God choose that particular man?

I. GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING OVER ISRAEL

A. GOD'S CALL FOR SAMUEL TO GO TO THE HOUSE OF JESSE TO ANOINT A KING

I Samuel 16:1 – “The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

- 1. As Saul was rejected as king over Israel, God told Samuel to go to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem
 - a. Jesse was the grandson of Boaz and Ruth

- b. Jesse was a shepherd who had 8 sons
- 2. more than likely, Samuel knew Jesse and his sons and was already thinking about which son God had chosen to be king.

B. SAMUEL'S EVALUATION OF JESSE'S SONS AS A POTENTIAL KING

1. As soon as Samuel arrived at Jesse's home, he began to look at each of the 8 sons of Jesse
 - a. the eldest son, **Eliab** came out
 1. it would have been the logical choice to choose Eliab as he was the oldest son of Jesse
 2. in a Jewish world, the oldest son usually received the blessing from the father and 2/3rds of the father's inheritance
 3. Samuel himself was convinced that Eliab would be God's choice for he was thoroughly impressed with Eliab when he first saw him. In his mind, Samuel thought: **Vs. 6 – "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord."**
 4. BUT, NOTICE WHAT GOD TOLD SAMUEL ABOUT ELIAB.
I Samuel 16:7 – "But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. **Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.**"
 - a. Samuel realized at that moment that God's choice HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH HOW SOMEONE LOOKED ON THE OUTSIDE.
 - b. God instead looked at a man's heart;
 - c. and God had decided to choose a future king because of what He saw in one of the son's heart
 - b. the second born son, **Abinadab**, came out, and he too was not chosen
 - c. and then each of the other brothers came out, and none of them were chosen either
2. at this point, Samuel wondered if he had seen all of the sons of Jesse
 - a. NOTICE THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN SAMUEL AND JESSE
I Samuel 16:11 – "So he asked Jesse, "**Are these all the sons you have?**" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."
 1. each of the oldest sons had been brought out
 2. each of the other sons were the ones "assumed" to be chosen **BUT THEY WERE NOT CHOSEN!**
 - b. Samuel found out that the only son left that he had not seen was the youngest son
 1. please notice that all of the older brothers were in the house "having tea"
 2. while the youngest son, "the brat" of the family was relegated to keeping the sheep!
3. **AS SOON AS DAVID ENTERED THE HOUSE, SAMUEL KNEW THAT HE WAS GOD'S ANOINTED**

- a. at once, Samuel said,
I Samuel 16:12 – “So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. **Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one."**
- b. **FROM THAT POINT, YOUNG DAVID WAS GOD’S CHOICE TO BE THE NEXT KING OVER ALL OF ISRAEL.**
 - 1. the runt of the family
 - 2. the youngest of 8 sons
 - 3. the one who was so unimportant that he was the keeper of the sheep

II. WHY DID GOD CHOOSE DAVID TO BE KING OVER ISRAEL?

A. God Chose A Man WHO WAS A SERVANT

- 1. God did not choose a “big shot”; one who was already a great leader
- 2. no, God chose a man who had the “heart of a servant”
 - a. of the eight sons, who was the only one who was out in the field keeping the sheep while all the others were inside watching their big screen TV and eating fritos?
 - b. David was a shepherd of the sheep
Psalm 78:70-71 – “He chose David his servant and **took him from the sheep pens; from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob**, of Israel his inheritance.”
 - 1. day and night David tended dumb, defenseless sheep
 - 2. night after night David faithfully took care of the sheep
 - a. as they ran away from the flock
 - b. as they got caught in the bushes
 - c. as David defended them from animals
 - 3. God saw every minute of every day that David faithfully and consistently took care of these sheep.
 - 4. **BECAUSE GOD WANTED A SHEPHERD-LEADER AS HIS KING.**
- 3. so many people think that in order to be a great leader, you have to be a great boss
 - a. “a take-charge guy”
 - b. someone who does not like to be “an Indian but is instead a Chief”
- 4. what God is saying by choosing David is this:
 - a. true leaders must **FIRST BECOME SERVANTS** or they will become terrible leaders
 - b. in my opinion, those who have always been leaders and never had to follow, do not make very good leaders
 - 1. Senior Pastors who have never been an Assistant Pastor
 - 2. Head football coaches who have never been assistant coaches

- c. I love this story about “true leadership”
A student at a Bible school in the Philippines became disturbed over the condition of the men’s rest rooms, since they always seemed to be neglected in the cleaning routine. When nothing was done to eliminate the filth, he took matters into his own hands and complained to the principal of the school. A little while later, the student noticed that the problem was being corrected, but he saw with amazement that the man with the mop and pail in hand was the principal himself. Later the student commented, “I thought that he would call a janitor, but he cleaned the toilets **himself**. It was a major lesson to me on being a servant and of course, it raised a question in my own mind as to why **I** hadn’t taken care of the problem!”
- d. I have heard it said, “You can tell a lot about a person about their attitude toward menial tasks.”
1. setting up chairs in the school
 2. cleaning up after someone has gotten sick
 3. giving a shut-in a ride to the Doctor
 4. is any task “beneath you” as a leader?
- e. **what did Jesus do for His disciples at the Last Supper?**
1. He washed their feet.
 2. The lowest of all jobs in that culture.
 3. **AND HE WAS AND IS GOD!**

B. God Chose A Man WHO HAD INTEGRITY

Psalm 78:72 – “And David shepherded them with **integrity of heart**; with skillful hands he led them.”

1. Integrity defined

- a. complete
- b. whole
- c. innocent
- d. sound

2. Integrity applied

- a. David was a man who “did his job” completely and totally
- b. David did not “cut corners”
- c. If David was:
 1. supposed to stay up all night with the sheep, he stayed up all night with the sheep
 2. supposed to take the flock to an obscure water hole that was clean, he took them to that water hole no matter how difficult
- d. **DAVID WAS A MAN OF HIS WORD – EVEN IF NO ONE SAW HIM DO IT**
 1. when you take 1 ½ hours for lunch and you have only a 1 hour lunch break
 2. when you spend ½ of your day at work on your computer planning a vacation
 3. when you as a Preacher steal other Preacher’s sermons

4. God saw EXACTLY how David spent his time
 5. Youth Pastor search: “When the candidate instinctively grabbed me to keep me safe.”
 6. **“Integrity is what you are when nobody is looking.”**
- e. Don’t expect God to call you to “great things” until you have been faithful in “little things”
1. **Swindoll** – “If you are going to set your eyes on the big things, if you are going to be a person with big visions, **them plan on doing little things well.**”
 2. **Luke 16:10** – **“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.”**
 3. I do not believe that God will entrust you with a “bigger opportunity” until you have shown integrity in the “little opportunities”
 - a. my time as a Youth Pastor
 1. middle and high school retreats (“Camper Bob”)
 2. counseling young people about boyfriends and girlfriends
 - b. my time as a small town Pastor
 1. visiting shut-ins
 2. being faithful to prepare for Wednesday night prayer meetings
 - c. my time as a church planter
 1. 10 years in a school
 2. setting up EACH AND EVERY SUNDAY!
 - d. my time as a Senior Pastor

C. God Chose A Man WHO LEARNED TO LIVE IN OBSCURITY

1. None of us like obscurity
 - a. we want to be “in the mix of things”
 - b. we want to make an impact
 - c. we want to be “where the action is” and we want to be leaders!
2. Do you realize **God’s method** of training Godly men?
 - a. **GOD USUALLY TRAINS HIS PEOPLE IN PRIVATE BEFORE HE USES THEM IN PUBLIC**
 - b. Examples:
 1. before **Moses** ever led the people of God out of Egypt, he spent 40 years in the wilderness tending sheep
 2. before **Elijah** was powerfully used on Mount Carmel to overwhelm the prophets of Baal, God sent him to a place where he would be taken care of by God.
I Kings 17:2-4– “Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: “Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan.⁴ You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there.”
 3. before **David** led the nation of Israel, he faithfully led his sheep for days and years by himself

4. **Jesus** lived a great deal of His life alone
 - a. **Mark 1:35** – “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and **went off to a solitary place**, where he prayed.”
 - b. **Luke 4:42** – “**At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place**. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them.”
 - c. **Luke 6:12** – “One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, **and spent the night praying to God.**”
5. **Swindoll** – “Men and women of God, servant-leaders in the making, are **first unknown, unseen, unappreciated, and unapplauded**. In the relentless demands of obscurity, character is built. **Strange as it may seem, those who first accepted the silence of obscurity are best qualified to handle the applause of popularity**”

D. God Chose A MAN OF TRUE SPIRITUALITY

1. Have you even noticed that God referred to David as “**a man after God’s own heart.**”?
 - a. what do you think that God meant by that?
 - b. wouldn’t you want to be a man or woman or child after God’s own heart?
2. Let us consider what God meant when He described David in this way
 - a. **David was a man who desired to defend the name of God in the power of God**
 1. when David was a young shepherd boy, his older brothers were called away to war to fight the Philistines
 2. once, when David was asked to take some food to his brothers on the battlefield, David witnessed the confrontation between the Philistine giant, Goliath and the Israelites
 - a. there was a “Mexican stand-off” between the Israelites and the Philistines
 - b. in the middle of the battlefield, a 9-foot giant named Goliath, stood defiantly in front of his enemies, challenging King Saul to come and fight him one on one.
 - c. when David got to the battlefield and heard Goliath calling out threats against God’s anointed King Saul, look what David said:
I Samuel 17:26 – “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?”**
 1. David was consumed with the name of God that he was immediately ready to go to battle HIMSELF with the 9-foot giant!

2. David could not believe that NO ONE would stand up to the ungodly Philistine.
3. and David would go in the power of the Lord – when asked by King Saul about going into battle against Goliath, David replied.

I Samuel 17:34-37 – “But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. **The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.**" Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

- a. like God, David believed in the power of God
 1. there was NO OTHER man in all of Israel who truly believed in the power of God
 2. where were those who believed in the power of God?
 - a. to “be a man after God’s own heart; meant that David not only “believed” in the power of God but “lived” and relied in that power.
 - b. why would God want to bless a man who only believed in the power of man? God wants to honor and use a man who like God, BELIEVES and LIVES in the power of God.
 - b. Jim Jansen – FAITH!
- b. David was a man who was totally dedicated to God**
1. notice what God has always been looking for in a man:
II Chronicles 16:9a (NASB) – “For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may support those **whose heart is completely His.**”
 2. Perhaps this was what made David “a man after God’s own heart”
 - a. **DAVID WAS FULLY AND TOTALLY THE LORD’S**
 - b. David gave his entire heart and soul to Him
 - c. David’s greatest desire was to follow the Lord with his life.
 3. Isn’t this what God desires for all of us?
 - a. **THAT WE GIVE HIM ALL THAT WE ARE AND ALL THAT WE HAVE**
 - b. to be fully and completely His.

c. **Romans 12:1** – “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, **to offer your bodies as living sacrifices**, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.”

4. CAN YOU “BLAME GOD” FOR CHOOSING A MAN WHO WAS TOTALLY COMMITTED TO HIM?

Conclusion

1. Where do we get the idea that we must be perfect to be used of God?
 - a. David was the youngest son of 8 sons of his father, Jesse
 - b. when all of his brothers were off fighting a war, David was home keeping the sheep
 - c. David was the smallest and most insignificant of all of the sons of Jesse
2. So, why did God choose David, instead of all of the other brothers?
 - a. first, because David had proven to God that he was faithful, **ESPECIALLY** in the small stuff.
 1. David did not have to be a “big shot” first: instead, he was a “small shot” first.
 2. In fact, if God wanted David to be a shepherd of sheep the rest of his life, he would do it with excellence and integrity
 - b. and second, because David gave his entire life to God
 1. for God to use David as He wished, God would need “all of David”
 2. that was David’s goal in this life, to be totally the Lord’s
3. DO YOU WANT TO BE A MAN, WOMAN OR CHILD AFTER GOD’S OWN HEART?
 - a. then, don’t hang onto or protect your heart
 - b. **GIVE YOUR HEART TOTALLY TO THE LORD AND DO NOT HOLD ANYTHING BACK . . .**
4. **Dwight Moody** is perhaps one of the best illustrations of what God can do in the heart of a nobody. Dwight Moody was born on **February 5, 1837**, on his mother’s birthday in Northfield, Massachusetts. He had eight siblings. His father was a stonemason and an alcoholic who died at age 41. When Moody was four years old, creditors came to repossess almost everything that the family owned, even the firewood. Moody, who only attended 7 years of school, had trouble reading and writing, even at age 17. Moody left his home to travel to Boston to look for work. Penniless, Moody found work with his uncle in a shoe store. Moody began to attend the Mount Vernon Congregational Church where he attended a Sunday School led by Edward Kimball. Kimball did not believe that Moody was a christian. Kimball said of young Moody, “I can truly say, and in saying it I magnify the infinite grace of God as bestowed upon him, **that I have seen few persons whose minds were spiritually darker than his when he came into my Sunday School class.**” Kimball finally mustered enough courage to visit Moody at his work in the shoe store. Kimball told Moody of his need for Christ and Moody responded by trusting Christ in the back of the shoe store that day. Immediately, Moody began to serve Christ until he became a well-known evangelist. One particular event changed Moody’s life and ministry. After preaching for some time, Moody traveled to Europe to learn more from some of

the greatest preachers there. However, it was an Irish evangelist who challenged Moody the most. **Mr. Henry Varley**, quoting John Knox, spoke privately to Moody and said to him, **“The world has yet to see what God will do with and for and through and in and by the man who is fully consecrated to Him.”** Moody thought; “he said a man, he did not say a great man, nor a learned man, nor a smart man, but simply a man. I am “a man,” and it lies with the man himself whether he will or will not make that entire and full consecration. **I will try my utmost to be that man.”**

Moody became the greatest “uneducated” evangelist of his day, sharing Christ with millions of people all over the world. Moody became “that man.”

5. **II Chronicles 16:9a (NASB)** – “For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those **whose heart is completely His.**”
 - a. I want to speak to believers now.
 - b. Are you willing to completely give your heart to God?
 - c. Will you become “a person after God’s own heart?”
 - d. Don’t you want the Lord to use you to your fullest extent in this life?