



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

905 Clearfield Street * Morehead, KY 40351 * (606)776-7089 * www.gracemorehead.org

Quit Operating on the **DEFENSIVE**

Sermon preached on Sunday, August 1, 2021

We have been using David as our springboard in this series: *Lessons from a Victorious David!*

David knew how to win! He knew how to take a ominous situation and turn it into a amazing victory!
He knew how to take a situation where the odds were against him and turn the odds for Him!

BELOVED: That is someone that we can learn something from! So we have!

1.) God makes something from nothing and turns it into everything!

BELOVED: it doesn't matter what you are currently facing...God has a plan set out for you for victory! It can change in a moment! Just don't give up!

2.) God has anointed you to do what He has called you to do.

He has given you the gifting and the calling and ability to do what He has assigned you to do.

THEREFORE: Stay in your assignment!

- * Don't lose sight of that assignment!
- * Don't let others steal that assignment!
- * Get around people that will help you fulfill that assignment!
- * Don't let the enemy lie to you about it being too late for that assignment!
- * God's favor makes the way...

3.) David understood the place that covenant had in his ultimate victory.

THEREFORE: He prioritized covenant relationships over anything!

4.) David inquired of the Lord.

He wanted to know the mind of God!

Acts 13:22 – “And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, *a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.*”

Before any decisions David wanted to know God's view on things!

He was AFTER the heart of God! Wanted to know the heart and plans of God!

HOWEVER: Once he KNEW the heart of God...

5.) David moved from DEFENSE to OFFENSE!

Instead of waiting for the enemy to do something before we do something...we JUST DO IT!

LAST WEEK: we discussed David's aggressive obedience!

Once He knew what he was suppose to do...he RAN towards the giant.

He did NOT sit back waiting for things to change...he recognized that his obedience was the change!

We have tendency, as Christians, to sit back and wait for things to change.

We KNOW that God fights the battles, so we wait for the victory.

HOWEVER: In Scripture... *even when God specifically said that the battle is the Lords...* it required the obedience and participation of His people to see the manifestation of the victory.

LISTEN: I absolutely get the point that we cannot generate fleshly results...but we INQUIRE of the LORD and when we HEAR we run with aggression to do what He said for us to do.

GOD WANTS US TO: Attack, attack, attack!

HOWEVER: We too often, sit back, sit back, sit back!

BELOVED: Don't wait until things get really bad to finally obey.

Don't wait until God has told you 20 times to finally obey.

Get aggressive about your obedience!

Quit Operating on the Defensive!

We know that David's big entrance, onto the scene, was on the battle field versus Goliath. It rose him to fame and fortune.

HOWEVER: His brother's knew exactly where David was suppose to be or at least where he spent ALL OF HIS TIME!

1 Samuel 17:28 – “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.”

David only knew ONE thing in life...hanging out with a bunch (or a few) sheep by himself.

Taking care of sheep can have its hectic and busy times...but there is actually a lot of down time.

Where it is just you sitting and watching the sheep eat...sleep...chill.

THEREFORE: Shepherds had time!

We actually don't know really anything about David in his sheep caring years...EXCEPT that it prepared him to be KING of Israel!

So we can see a few things:

- * Killing Goliath was a result of killing a lion and a bear while being a shepherd.
- * Using his sling shot to kill Goliath was not just luck...it was a result of practicing over and over again in the field and then striking any predators that endangered his sheep.

Here are a few other things we can glean:

1 Samuel 16:23 – “And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.”

So we can see that he practiced his harp, to become a skilled musician and worshipper.

He praised the Lord with his harp...in the field.

NOTE: Psalm was written by a worshipper. You don't talk that much about worship without being a worshipper and praiser!

Psalm 63:1 – “O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;”

David developed a habit, in the field, of spending the early morning hours with God.

Psalm 119 was written by a lover of the Word. Many names have been attached to it, but it still could have been David.

He had a habit of loving the Word of the Lord.

REMEMBER: Acts 13:22 He was after the heart of God.

HERE IS MY POINT: David didn't wait until he got on the battle field to start practicing his craft.

He didn't wait until he got on the throne before he began learning the presence of God.

He did those things LONG before the opportunity ever arose! He did those things when there was NO ONE looking! He did those things when it was just him and his few sheep.

When he showed himself faithful in private...God knew he was ready to be seen!

HERE IS A POINT: The first king was the BIGGEST dude in Israel...but what about his heart. Surely Eliab was the BIGGEST dude in David's family...but God wanted a heart that after Him, because that is a person God can use successfully!

BELOVED: Most of us have learned to pray, praise, get in the Word or even give REACTIONARY!
Defensively.

When a problem raises it's ugly head...we start seeking God.

When a situation that we were not expecting comes up...we start praising!

THINK ABOUT DAVID: Do you think he was expecting Goliath that day when he went to the battlefield to take food to his brothers and the King?

We spend too much time reacting to a problem or when we are attacked.

THEREFORE: We are always playing catch up!

ILLUSTRATION #1: A sports team who watches film BEFORE the game.

ILLUSTRATION #2: A physician doesn't only learn how to do the surgery...they also train on what to do if things go wrong.

ILLUSTRATION #3: Armies create battle plans! They don't just run head first into battle...they do the planning BEFORE they ever see conflict!

Luke 14:31 – “Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?”

2 Kings 6:8-12 (NLT)

- 8 When the king of Aram was at war with Israel, he would confer with his officers and say, “We will mobilize our forces at such and such a place.”
- 9 But immediately Elisha, the man of God, would warn the king of Israel, “Do not go near that place, for the Arameans are planning to mobilize their troops there.”
- 10 So the king of Israel would send word to the place indicated by the man of God. ***Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he would be on the alert there.***
- 11 The king of Aram became very upset over this. He called his officers together and demanded, “Which of you is the traitor? Who has been informing the king of Israel of my plans?”
- 12 “It's not us, my lord the king,” one of the officers replied. “Elisha, the prophet in Israel, tells the king of Israel even the words you speak in the privacy of your bedroom!”
- 13 “Go and find out where he is,” the king commanded, “so I can send troops to seize him.” And the report came back: “Elisha is at Dothan.”

Jesus Prayed Into a Lifestyle

While we have tendency to pray reactionary...Jesus prayed into or for a lifestyle!
He was always preparing for something that was coming down the road.

Just like David did!

Matthew 17:14-21

- 14 And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying,
15 Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.
16 ***And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.***
17 Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? ***bring him hither to me.***
18 ***And Jesus rebuked the devil;*** and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.
19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?
20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.
21 ***Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.***

I know we have pointed this out before, but where in this account did Jesus actually do any prayer and fasting OVER this child?

UNDERSTAND: A lot of theology has been preached and written about praying and fasting over people who are sick or in need...but this should NOT be the text.

Jesus, commanded the devil to leave that child...the devil left!

He did his prayer and fasting LONG before that moment ever arose.

JUST LIKE WE ARE SAYING WITH DAVID: David had prepared long before Goliath ever showed up!

IMPORTANT: That is why the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray.

Matthew 26:36-46 – Garden of Gethsemane

Matthew 26:41 – “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Jesus was telling them that they don't know what is getting ready to happen, but they are going to need to be prepared for it.

If they don't prepare themselves for what is coming...they will fail. Many of them did!

John 14:27 – “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

Jesus taught about peace! We need peace!

IN THIS WORLD: Peace is the absence of something.

IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD: Peace is the presence of someone!

PERHAPS: Discuss Acts 3:1 – When the disciples said, silver and gold have we none, but such as we have!

They had been praying into a lifestyle!

PERHAPS: In Acts 12 – James is killed by Herod.

THEN: He arrests Peter to do the same thing to him.

HOWEVER: There was a group of people praying for Peter...they didn't want to lose any more apostles.

BILL JOHNSON: God can use a tragedy so well that people can think it must have been his idea for martyrdom.

Conclusion

The things that I want to encourage you to learn to do...not just in church (yes in church), but in your daily lives.

Is to learn to hold precious the things that David held precious.

1.) **The Word!**

Psalm 119:105 – “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

Psalm 23:4 – “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

If you are waiting until you are in the middle of the battle read the Word and love the Word, you will probably not get very far.

2.) **Prayer!**

Psalm 63:1 – Early will I seek thee!

If you are waiting until the storm to start your prayer life...it will not be successful.

3.) **Praise!**

We must understand that praise isn't just the song. ***It is a heart that is captivated by the magnitude of all that God is...therefore, it overflows into external actions!***

LISTEN: When you are waiting until the midst of difficulties to start praising...it will become much tougher!