

The Kings of Judah
David: From Childhood to Manhood
Lesson V

Written: December 8, 1985

We have considered what the Lord did for David. "He could say, "he hath done great things for my soul." Then, we considered David as a type of Christ.

INTRODUCTION

James 5:17

Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

James 5:17

The great value in the study of Bible characters is only seen when we remember that all of these men were 'men of like passions.' That their temptations are common to all. They were not made of better stuff than we are. Nor were they made of poorer stuff. They were made of the same kind of clay as we are. They had their ups and they had their downs. One day strong in faith, the very next day a lapse of faith. One day spiritually hot, the very next day lukewarm. I see myself so often, that I confess, I often do not like what I see! However, it does make me rejoice more and more, as I see the grace of God manifest in my life.

1. DAVID'S CHILDHOOD (Prov.20:11)

Even a child is known by his doings

Prov.20:11

1. Born in Bethlehem 1 Samuel 17:58

And Saul said to him, Whose son *art* thou, *thou* young man? And David answered, I *am* the son of thy servant Jesse the Bethlehemite .

1 Samuel 17:58

We remember that Paul was born in the great city of Tarsus. That was not his doing nor was that his choice! David was born in a little place. He had a humble beginning. And that was not his choice nor was it his fault. None of us had anything to do with the place of our birth. So if there is blame or credit to be given it must be placed on God. But there is a lesson here. A man's worth is not measured by his place of birth, or his time of birth. Both of those are in the hands of a Sovereign God. My wife was born in Scotland; that was not by choice. Brother Ray Jones was born in Wales; he can't change that! I was born in a very small community in Canada. These are facts of life. Which we must accept. Yet I see in the story of David, a like story in every life. There is something about the place of one's birth that places a lasting mark on one's life. It was a very moving experience to be with my wife when she visited her native Scotland.

The place of birth does make an impression on one's life. But do not despise small beginnings. Zechariah 4:10. It was at his humble home in Bethlehem, David learned things that made him what he was to become later on in life. Until we accept ourselves, we cannot be ourselves. As a man should never despise his mother, so no one should despise his place of birth. Remember, God arranged that!

2. Born into a large family. 1 Samuel 17:12

Now David *was* the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehemjudah, whose name *was* Jesse; and he had eight sons: and the man went among men *for* an old man in the days of Saul.

1 Samuel 17:12

David was the youngest. 1 Samuel 16:11

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.

1 Samuel 16:11

To be the youngest of eight boys must have been a trial, at times, for David. He knew the joys of a big family, but he also knew the sorrows. The more people there are in a family the more things there are that can go wrong. But in this story, it seems that David accepted his lot without question. No doubt his eldest brother Eliab had often spoken unkindly to David as he did in 1 Samuel 17:28. But David lived above it. I think and believe, a great secret in life is in learning to accept the things one cannot change. Recognizing that there are facts of life that will remain. While on the other hand, there are problems in life that can be changed. I think I said to you before; some parents think their children are problems. No, your children are facts of life. If they are creating problems, only the Lord can alter their behaviour. The same can be said about wives. Do not look upon your wife as your problem. She is your fact of life. If your wife or husband create problems it is the Lord alone who can iron that out! One of the great joys of a Christian life is seeing the Hand of the Lord working out problems we cannot solve.

3. David was left to feed sheep.

1 Samuel 16:11

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.

1 Samuel 16:11

1 Samuel 17:15. What a humble task! Writes F.B. Meyer: "David, Daniel, Joseph have one thing in common. The faithful fulfilment of the commonplace of daily life. It was the best preparation then and it is the best preparation now for any great demand that may suddenly break upon our lives." Perhaps the greatest training in the life of a child is training in faithfulness. Giving a child a task and encouraging that child to stick with it. David was faithful to his father therefore faithful in the task at hand. He willingly looked after the sheep. He was not reluctantly doing this menial task waiting for a day of greater glory.

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The Bible is clear. It is the one who is faithful in "little" that is given the responsibility of much. Because the truth is, we will do with the "much" exactly what we do with the "little." If you are not "liberal" with your "little" you would not be "liberal" with much. While David was feeding and looking after sheep he was being prepared for later years of service. All young people need to have impressed upon them that the years of preparation-if faithfully kept, are not lost-years.

But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

1 Samuel 17:15

11. DAVID'S YOUTH.

1. 1 Samuel 16:18 there are five facts in this verse.(a) David was cunning. He developed his talents and what he did he did well. (b) David was valiant, which means he was brave in times of danger. He had to single-handedly meet both a lion and a bear. (c) David was prudent. This means he was a careful thinker. (d) David was comely. This means becoming, graceful and good looking. (e) Best of all, others knew and testified that the Lord was with him.

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.

1 Samuel 16:18

2. He was loveable

1 Samuel 16:21

1 Samuel 18:1

1 Samuel 20:17

And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer.

1 Samuel 16:21

And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

1 Samuel 18:1

And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

1 Samuel 20:17

Writes F.B. Meyer: "The charmer David. Saul's servants loved him. Michal, Saul's daughter loved him. Jonathan, Saul's son, loved him. The soldier's of David loved him. Abigail love him. In his youth, the young girls sang about David." (recall the story?) He had the makings of a Hollywood star of today!

3. David was chosen by God.

1 Samuel 16:8-12 Others were rejected, David was chosen. Notice: 1 Samuel.13:14 "sought a man." Psalm. 89:20 he found David. Psalm. 78:70-71 he took David. 1 Samuel 16:1 he was made a king. He was not born a king, he was CHOSEN by God to be a King. apply Revelation 1:5

Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these. 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. 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.

1 Samuel 16:8-12

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.

1 Samuel.13:14

I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him:

Psalm. 78:70-71

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.

Samuel 16:1

And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Revelation 1:5

4. The Spirit came upon him.

1 Samuel 16:13. No preparation for service is complete without this.

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.

1 Samuel 16:13

111. DAVID'S MANHOOD AND MATURE YEARS.

1. Saul was his enemy.

1 Samuel. 18:9 eyed David.

1 Samuel. 18:29 continually

1 Samuel. 19:2,10,11

1 Samuel. 20:1-3

1 Samuel. 23:14 every day...but God

The whole thing started in 1 Samuel 18:7-8. As the story reveals, David had done nothing that was wrong. It was not his fault that the women did what they had done. But it made Saul jealous. Saul began to envy David. Then he hated him. Then tried to kill him. (Jesus said if you hate you will kill)

This kind of thing has been repeated in history. It is so easy. It is so human to look upon the success of others with a jaundiced eye. And under this pressure, David failed. And again we can see ourselves. You see you cannot make people like you but you can make enemies. You can make people dislike you even hate you and it seems so unfair.

And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

1 Samuel. 18:9

And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.

1 Samuel. 18:29

Verse 2 But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret *place*, and hide thyself: **Verse 10** And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night.

Verse 11 Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain.

1 Samuel. 19:2,10,11

And David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said before Jonathan, What have I done? what *is* mine iniquity? and what *is* my sin before thy father, that he seeketh my life? And he said unto him, God forbid; thou shalt not die: behold, my father will do nothing either great or small, but that he will shew it me: and why should my father hide this thing from me? *it is not so*. And David sware moreover, and said, Thy father certainly knoweth that I have found grace in thine eyes; and he saith, Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved: but truly *as* the LORD liveth, and *as* thy soul liveth, *there is* but a step between me and death.

1 Samuel. 20:1-3

2. David at first, behaved wisely.

1 Samuel 18:5

1 Samuel 18:14

1 Samuel 18:30

And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, *and* behaved himself 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.

1 Samuel 18:5

And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD *was* with him.

1 Samuel 18:14

Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, *that* David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by.

1 Samuel 18:30

3. Then Saul gave his daughter to David.

1 Samuel 18:21

This verse reveals first of all, that Saul knew what his daughter was like! (Psalm 76:10 seems to fit) Saul expected his daughter would help him destroy David, but read 1 Samuel 19:11-17. Michal became the channel that God used to save David's life. The plans of the Devil can never frustrate the plan of God. Ammie McPherson said: "When revival fires begin to burn the Devil sends his Demons to pour on the water but they end up pouring on gasoline instead."

And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in *the one of* the twain.

1 Samuel 18:21

Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain. So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped. And Michal took an image, and laid it in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster, and covered it with a cloth. And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, He is sick. And Saul sent the messengers again to see David, saying, Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may slay him. And when the messengers were come in, behold, there was an image in the bed, with a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster. And Saul said unto Michal, Why hast thou deceived me so, and sent away mine enemy, that he is escaped? And Michal answered Saul, He said unto me, Let me go; why should I kill thee?

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4. David became fearful and foolish.

1 Samuel 21:10-15

1 Samuel 27:1 He was not the first man of faith to fear, nor was he the last. The day came when David wrote Psalm. 23:4, but I am sure it was after this trying experience. We need to be reminded that Jesus said in John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled." Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 1:7 God hath not given us the spirit of fear. And again Philippians 1:18 "in nothing be terrified by your adversaries." Christian, learn from the story of David and others; fear will make you and me do foolish things. Our salvation includes deliverance from fear and useless anxiety. see Matthew 6:34, Matthew 24:6, Philippians 4:6

And David arose and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath. And the servants of Achish said unto him, Is not this David the king of the land? did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands? And David laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Achish the king of Gath. And he changed his behaviour before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard. Then said Achish unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad: wherefore then have ye brought him to me? Have I need of mad men, that ye have brought this fellow to play the mad man in my presence? shall this fellow come into my house?

1 Samuel 21:10-15

And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand.

1 Samuel 27:1

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.

Psalms. 23:4

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

John 14:1

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7

What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

Philippians 1:18

Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

Matthew 6:34

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And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

Matthew 24:6

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Philippians 4:6

5. David, living with the Philistines became like them.

1 Samuel 27:6-12

1 Corinthians 15:33

Then Achish gave him Ziklag that day: wherefore Ziklag pertaineth unto the kings of Judah unto this day. And the time that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines was a full year and four months. And David and his men went up, and invaded the Geshurites, and the Gezrites, and the Amalekites: for those nations were of old the inhabitants of the land, as thou goest to Shur, even unto the land of Egypt. And David smote the land, and left neither man nor woman alive, and took away the sheep, and the oxen, and the asses, and the camels, and the apparel, and returned, and came to Achish. And Achish said, Whither have ye made a road to day? And David said, Against the south of Judah, and against the south of the Jerahmeelites, and against the south of the Kenites. And David saved neither man nor woman alive, to bring tidings to Gath, saying, Lest they should tell on us, saying, So did David, and so will be his manner all the while he dwelleth in the country of the Philistines. And Achish believed David, saying, He hath made his people srael utterly to abhor him; therefore he shall be my servant for ever.

1 Samuel 27:6-12

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

1 Corinthians 15:33

6. In it all David's heart was tender about the things of God.

1 Samuel 22:18-22

1 Samuel 24: 4,5

1 Samuel 25: 32-33

1 Samuel 26:7-12

1 Samuel 24:10 cf 1 Chronicles 21:17. There is much in later chapters about the heart of David. This pleased God.

And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod. And Nob, the city of the priests, smote he with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and sucklings, and oxen, and asses, and sheep, with the edge of the sword. And one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David. And Abiathar shewed David that Saul had slain the LORD's priests. And David said unto Abiathar, I knew it that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul: I have occasioned the death of all the persons of thy father's house.

1 Samuel 22:18-22

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