

05/01/05 – “DAVID’S JOURNEY”

I Samuel 16:1-7 – King Saul rejected the Lord’s counsel and Samuel goes to Bethlehem with specific instructions to identify a new king

“But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’” – I Sam. 16:7 – Man looks at external appearance

David is anointed by Samuel and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him from that day forward

The Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord terrorized him (vs.14)... David ministers to Saul

“So Saul said to his servants, ‘Provide for me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me.’ Then one of the young men answered and said, ‘Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who is a skillful musician, a mighty man of valor, a warrior, one prudent in speech, and a handsome man; and the Lord is with him.” – 17-18 - When David spoke none of his words fell to ground... the Lord was with him

When David slays Goliath all of Israel rejoices, **“Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.”** – 1 Samuel 18:7

Saul became jealous and violent towards David - Saul’s son, Jonathan, makes a covenant with David because the Lord was with David

David soon becomes a fugitive – Saul’s pride and jealousy drives him to wanting David dead for fear he’ll lose the kingdom

David is constantly pursued into the wilderness and is down to 400 men who gather at the cave of Abdullam with little hope

David goes over to the Philistines who decide to kill him but David pretends he’s insane and the Philistines let him escape

When he returns, his camp had been raided, and all they owned, including wives and children were gone

David’s men wanted to stone him, but he encouraged himself in the Lord – **DAVID ENCOURAGED HIMSELF IN THE LORD!**

Jesus said, *“...In the world you have tribulation, but take courage: **I have overcome the world.**”* – John 16:33

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you...” – 1 Peter 4:12 – We are forewarned that we will have tribulation and testing but God is faithful

No one wants bad things to happen – But when adversity comes, **God gives us the strength** to get through the storm regardless of circumstances

We are **the salt of the earth** and the **light of the world** and through the power of the Holy Spirit His grace is sufficient in difficult times

David’s life was not easy – **The lion, the bear, Goliath, betrayals, slandered, fugitive in constant danger and need**...but **ultimate victory**

Saul’s takes a downward spiral into the occult... the king now in an abyss of lostness and isolation... wounded in battle and takes his own life

DAVID’S RESPONSE

David lamented for his enemies and those who wanted to hurt him - He had the heart of God and obeyed Him fully

Saul’s people are struggling because David had gained ascendancy and a civil war breaks out followed by much bloodshed

God was with David – *“For day by day men came to David to help him, until there was a great army like the army of God.”*

When Israel unites, David decides to bring the Ark back to Jerusalem to honor God – 1 Chronicles 13:5-8

“And David and all Israel were celebrating before God with all their might, even with songs and with lyres, harps, tambourines, cymbals and with trumpets.” – 1 Chronicles 13:8 – Have you ever celebrated with all your might? Your total being? Blessing the Lord with all your soul?

David has been through so much and was grateful – What a mighty God we serve – Rejoicing and celebrating with all his strength

THEN, Uzza touches the cart holding the Ark of the Covenant and the Lord strikes him dead – David becomes angry and afraid

When we get angry at God, **we forget why God is angry at us**... **God’s displeasure with us should not turn into our displeasure towards God?**

What if Noah became angry at the Flood and didn’t want to serve a God who let all these people drown? **God is just and true!**

What if Peter became angry when Ananias and Sapphira kept back part of their offering (Acts 5) and were struck dead for lying?

Why did God strike down Uzza? Because only Levites were to carry the Ark **and the Lord is holy**... David and Israel knew they were wrong

Good intentions do not justify disobedience to God’s clear commands – **Does the clay have the right to tell the potter what to do?**

CORRECTS HIS SIN AND PRAYS

In 1 Chronicles 15, David repents of this and tells them that the only ones to carry the Ark are the Levites

Part of David’s heart after God is that when he failed, he **always turned back to God** – **Not a perfect man, but knew his perfect God**

He **gives thanks** to the Lord – He **calls upon His name** – He **makes known His deeds** – He **sings to Him** – He **sings praises** to Him – He **speaks** of

His wonders – **Seeks the Lord** and His strength – He **remembers** His wonderful deeds – He **proclaims good tidings** and tells of His glory – He

ascribes to the Lord glory – He **brings an offering** and he **worships God** – 1 Chronicles 16:8-29