

David: Forgotten - Jill Webber

David was a man after God's heart (1 Sam 13v14, Acts 13v22). A man of contradictions - great triumphs, defeats Goliath, establishes Jerusalem, returned the Ark of Covenant, a well documented prayer life, but also an adulterer, murderer, incompetent father. We can learn from his successes and failures, finding ourselves in his story and learn that we can trust God in our faults and failings.

David: Forgotten

Jill led worship in the '90s, first a prayer group, then in church, then Toronto Renewal meetings and conferences. Each was better than the last culminating in producing an album. But broken vocal cords abruptly stopped her singing for 2 years. Jill felt forgotten and on the fringe. David was a lad on the fringe.

1 Sam 16v1-11 - David was overlooked by his father when Samuel came looking to anoint a new king. He was unseen. **Do we feel "unseen" and forgotten? (In job, singleness, home life, social media followings)**

A great danger to our soul is early success - our character and maturity might not have caught up with our anointing and our natural abilities. Many can be called by God and then taken off the frontline and into a place of preparation. This can be normal: Jesus' life was obscured for 30 years, then anointed at baptism, then 40 days in the wilderness (a place of anonymity).

Get Real. What happens when we don't have an audience? Who are we when no one is watching? David tended sheep, he had an open heart but had mood swings. Ps 27v7-11 is a lament.

Look Up. God became real to David and became his chief orienting reality. Ps 27v4-5. David took after God and takes on his character and goodness. Ps 27v13-14 Confidence grew and he learned to wait.

Grow Up. Robert Clinton authored *The Making of a Leader* by studying 3,000 cases from calling to conformity to God. {Ed: Jill later mentions that "leaders" aren't just those on church platforms - we are all leaders in different ways, ie parents lead their families, pillars in home, church, work, etc.} 3 keys:

- **Integrity** - the inner character is consistent. Being trustworthy in small things leads to being trustworthy in larger things.
- **Word** - the ability to receive God's word into your life. Our inner convictions become problem solvers and we gain vision and faith. God's word shapes us.
- **Obedience** - receive and obey. Our shaped life will influence others. God doesn't do pass/fail, he's about mastery. If the test comes and we don't succeed, God says "No problem, we'll just do it again." God looks at the heart and our hidden actions prepare us for public outworking.

Goliath. 1 Sam 17v28-36. David fought lion and bear in secret before having the confidence to fight Goliath. We get the spiritual anointing from the get-go but it can take decades to develop and mature the spiritual authority which is done in the secret place. *Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.* Luke 16v10 **What are your hidden battles? What's the "little" that God has entrusted to you? Who are you when no one is looking?** God's invitation is for you to grow in strength, confident in God and spiritual authority.

"What God may hereafter require of you, you must not give yourself the least trouble about it. Everything he gives you to do you must do as well as you can and that is the best possible preparation for what he may want to do next." George MacDonald.

Can we reframe being "forgotten"? *He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver.* Isa 49v2. Not forgotten but hidden. Let God hide you - that's where he forms and shapes us. He then reveals us to those who need to see us. We need to get over ourselves! Get Real - lose false persona; Look Up - Orientate in God's reality; Grow Up - become trustworthy .

- Which part of the talk most spoke to you? Why?
- Why is being "hidden" a better description than being "forgotten"?
- God sees us, God knows us, God loves us. Pray for one another.

21 January 2024. Emmaus Rd., Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford (2nd service)