

**“Great Treasures Through Small Measures” 1 Samuel 16:14-23**  
**Wednesday 10/2/19 - Jeff Lyle**

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Many people wonder, "Just how do I walk in my God-appointed destiny?" The answer for each of us is that we walk in destiny one faithful step at a time. David has been anointed as the future King of Israel by Samuel. David is a teenager whose current job is protecting sheep from predators. Positionally, he is the low man on the totem pole in his family. Yet, when it comes to David's destiny, there is nobody positioned higher in all of Israel. How would David ever make it from the lowly shepherd's field to the throne of Israel? This message reveals how our impossibilities are God's opportunities. God called David to be a king, and He would see to it that David eventually arrived at the appointed place. From this season in David's life, we learn the immeasurable value of treating small opportunities as if they were the most important. Sometimes the greatest treasures come to us in the smallest measures. If we are faithful in the least, we will eventually be faithful in the greatest.

**I. We See Sovereignly Orchestrated Events (14-18)**

**A. God ordains a crisis (14-15) - “Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him. 15 And Saul's servants said to him, “Behold now, a harmful spirit from God is tormenting you.”**

Saul had already been told that his reign in Israel was no longer legitimate in the eyes of God. As often is the case, the man without God's anointing still had the human position. God exalts when He chooses, and God dethrones when He chooses. Before Saul was fully removed from his position in Israel, there would be many years of struggle for himself, David and the nation. We are not mistaken when we discern here that the Bible teaches that God authorized a demonic spirit to torment King Saul. Through disobedience and rebellion, Saul opened the door to the activity of the enemy and God sent that enemy marching through. Those around Saul noticed the changes in him and rightly concluded that the king was being afflicted by an evil spirit. Nothing could protect Saul from the enemy of his soul. It is from Saul's life that we learn that the sin of rebellion is like witchcraft (**1 Samuel 15:23**), and the human king was now being attacked by a spiritual force of darkness that God was using to further humble the self-willed leader of Israel.

**B. God creates a need (16-17) - “Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well.” 17 So Saul said to his servants, “Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me.”**

**Proverbs 21:1** declares, "The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wants." A king had uncontested authority in the Old Testament. The Scripture teaches that the human king was like putty in the hand of the Lord. Clearly, then, the servants of that king could also be sovereignly turned by the Lord. God used the servants of Saul to broach the topic of possibly using a musician to soothe

Saul's tormented spirit. What likely sounded like a good idea for helping with the king's problem was actually a setup from Heaven. God created the need so that He could bring His own solution into the palace, namely, David.

**C. God opens the door (18) - “One of the young men answered, “Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the Lord is with him.”**

Here comes the second part of a back-to-back sovereign move from God. There among Saul's servants was one who happened to know of a certain son of a man named Jesse who lived in Bethlehem. This son of Jesse was known as a skilled musician who also happened to have the type of personality that could serve well in a royal setting. David is described as musically gifted, courageous, skilled in combat, wise in speech, handsome, and characterized by the favor of God. Let us not make the mistake of believing this to be some mere coincidence. No, God had the right servant at the right place at the exact moment when his knowledge of David's musical skill would be an essential detail in the need that was unfolding in the palace. God was working on behalf of David while David was completely ignorant of what was happening. We are wise to remember that, if we cannot see God working on our behalf, He is not obligated to make known His every action. Our faith demands that we believe that our Heavenly Father is always working all things together for our good - even when we cannot see a single thing happening.

## **II. We Note Spirit-Ordained Preparation (19-21)**

**A. David was faithful as a servant (19) - “Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, “Send me David your son, who is with the sheep.”**

After being told he would be king, David displayed amazing contentment and patience. We hear of no demands for people to honor him in his calling from God. David did not refuse to fulfill his previously assigned responsibilities. He followed through on his commitments. He honored those in his family who needed his help. Remember, he was the future King of Israel, but David was content to continue to serve as a shepherd (a blue-collar job) until the appointed time. I personally believe that one of the reasons for which David was elevated was his servant-heartedness sincerity before the Lord. Whatever David was given to do, he did it as unto the Lord with all his might. David had an anointing for royalty, but he had an ongoing appointment as a servant. We too must only look for any potential advancement after we have proven our willingness to joyfully submit to the will of God where we presently find ourselves. Whether His will is a dirty field or an immaculate throne room, we must learn faithfulness.

**B. David was submissive and humble (20) - “And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread and a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them by David his son to Saul.”  
Though anointed as Saul’s replacement, he functioned as Saul’s servant**

Here was David's moment. For the first time, he is introduced to the king that he will eventually replace. Again, David's function as a servant is highlighted. How tempting it is for young people to presume that, as soon as God begins to advance them, the people blocking their way should be removed. David was much wiser than this. He understood that the God who called him would eventually cause him to land in his full destiny. David continued to serve, bringing bread, wine and a goat from his father to honor King Saul. Submissively and humbly, the future king did the work of an errand boy as he entered the king's presence for the first time. When someone stands between you and your God-appointed calling and destiny, resist the temptation to knock them out of the way. You will want to know that you arrived at your eventual place of appointment in God's timing by God's promotion...not by your own strong-arm techniques.

**C. David was proven and promoted (21) - “And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer.”**

While David's primary role would be to serve as the king's personal musician, he was soon given the additional honorable role of the king's armor bearer. This indicates the rapid level of trust with Saul that David obtained. An armor bearer often had the king's life in his very hands in times of battle. David, still in his role of a servant, was being granted the privilege of learning how to operate as a king in times of warfare. He would have learned much about military, royal protocol and the various mannerisms of the king whom he served. God was both promoting David and equipping him for his future. While an impatient person might have grown frustrated at having to wait for his moment to arrive, David accepted this season as one of training and continued to serve the current king with honor. As David was being proven by God, he was also being promoted by God. The guitar player had become the right-hand man of the King of Israel.

**III. We Discern Clearly Observed Anointing (22-23)**

**A. God gave David favor (22) - “And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, “Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight.”**

As the normal time period passed during which David might have been sent back to his father's household, Saul decreed that he would like to retain David's services. There was something on David's life that even the carnal King Saul could not ignore. Perhaps Saul recognized that touch of God on David that Saul himself no longer had. Whatever the case, David would be allowed to move back and forth between his home in Bethlehem where he would serve his father and the king's household where he would serve Saul. Favor was resting upon young David. He was responding properly to each and every challenge and opportunity which found him.

**B. God gave David spiritual power (23a) - “And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand...”**

There was nobody else in the entire nation whom God would use to bring relief to Saul's tortured heart. While God did not remove the demonic affliction from Saul, He did provide the ministry of David as a grace to lighten Saul's burden when it became too heavy. The king would summon David from Bethlehem, and David would come and play music that had an anointing of some sort. The result was that David's music facilitated

the power of God against the power of the enemy that had taken Saul captive. David became known as one that Saul needed close by. Let us never underestimate nor take for granted those near us whom God uses for specific needs in our lives. We must honor the power of God on the lives of others. He will give others power that he chooses not to give you. Do not become envious or jealous of these people - you need them in your life. Unfortunately for Saul, the power on David's life became a source of envy and insecurity. The ministry of God through David in Saul's life would eventually end because Saul became afraid of it.

**C. God gave David results (23b) - “So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.”**

In the Kingdom of God, when the power of God rests upon a person who is seeking His honor and glory, there will arise eventual results. Not every season is a harvest season, but those seasons will eventually arrive to those who are faithful. David has many things that he could do, but God was only allowing one primary area of release for the young musician. David did not grow frustrated at what he was NOT being allowed to do for God. David simply threw his all into the one area where God had opened the door of ministry. The result? A tormented king found refreshment and relief from David's ministry, and the foul spirit of darkness was unable to continue his works of darkness. God sent demons running as David faithfully executed his assignments in the throne room. May we all be patient, faithful and grateful for any door opened to us by the Lord. Sometimes the greatest treasures God has set aside for us come through small measures of faithfulness in opportunities that may not seem impressive upon first glance. Treat every assignment as being a gift from God and He will move you into that next thing He has for you.