

## **1 Samuel 17:17-20**

*A man was teaching a model building class for students age 9-13. They would say I'm missing parts! did you follow directions "No they would say I skipped that part." "My models messed up, it's defective." It's because you skipped steps 1-3! When they followed directions the model looked great. David: Received direction*

### **I. THE IMPORTANCE OF DIRECTION**

A. Our text shows us one of the starting point so destiny is receiving direction/instruction

1. David takes direction from his father: *V17-18 Jesse said to his son David, "Take this half bushel of cooked grain and ten loaves of bread to your brothers in the camp. <sup>18</sup> Also take ten pieces of cheese to the commander and to your brothers. See how your brothers are and bring back some proof to show me that they are all right.*

2. This is where discipleship is forged: *Taking direction/instruction*

a. Disciple: A learner/student; One who doesn't know everything – so they take direction/instruction

b. Direction is given by people with greater experience/wisdom/depth of relationship with God

B. Taking direction is crucial

1. Often the one giving instruction sees things you don't see:

a. You learn what is important: It might not seem important at the time

1. In this case: David is learning to meet other people's needs – to be thinking of other people

a. What his brothers need: Food b. How his father feels: He needs encouragement

b. Sometimes the full ramifications are not explained or understood by the disciple

1. *Let down your nets for a catch 2. Cast your nets on the other side...Why?*

C. Direction is always about the future: May be meeting a need/fixing a problem – but issue is the future!

1. Someday it will be people 2. Someday it will be your destiny/other people's destiny

*Man in navy: Drilled into us instant obedience. One day an officer yelled "DOWN" and we instantly hit the deck. A metal cable had snapped, and the line – with a large metal hawser came flying directly over our heads. It would have taken off our heads. The officer could see what we couldn't see.*

### **II. THE TEST OF DIRECTION**

A. Think about why receiving direction may have been more difficult for David:

1. God had revealed His plan for David's life

a. He was anointed King: Someday you will rule the entire nation (including your brothers/Dad)

2. Human nature resists instruction when we think we are bigger than it

a. *Why should I deliver cheese/play errand boy: I'M GONNA BE THE KING!*

b. *Disciples; I'm called/I have a destiny/I got a word/prophecy...I'm beyond direction*

B. So direction becomes a test of our hearts

1. A test of pride: Can you receive direction/be told what to do?

a. *Proverbs 15:5 A fool despises his father's instruction, But he who receives correction is prudent.*

b. *Peter rebuking Jesus/God in the flesh!*

C. To help you – God has designed destiny to come through a man

1. Frequent tests of our pride – teachability

a. Sometimes There is no time to completely spell out all the reasons why

1. It's not wrong to ask for clarification: *Eleazar – what if she won't come? Sometimes there's no time*

b. Sometimes I deliberately don't spell out everything: *I am testing disciples!*

### **III. DESTINY AND DIRECTION**

A. Following direction/instruction brings us into destiny

1. God is able to give direction to those who can receive direction

a. *Psalm 25:9 He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.*

2. They wind up in crucial situations that bring them into the will of God!

a. *David: His father tells him to play errand boy and deliver cheese. But in fact God wanted him to see Goliath defy God's people: It would launch him into his destiny!*

3. On the other hand – those who can't receive direction keep putting destiny on hold

a. Still haven't learned that lesson...let's take that test again!

1. I see men who have talent/potential – but their pride holds them back

b. If God gave the unteachable wonderful destiny – it would result in destruction

1. *Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.*

a. *Destroy others b. Destroy yourself*

4. So you have to face the truth: Can you receive direction/follow instructions