

Critical lesson for disciple issue of stewardship — How you treat something that does not belong to you - Our text Davids destiny was determined by his experience and care for what was entrusted to him. How you handle what's been entrusted to you will determine your future.

1 Samuel 17:33-37—33 And Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth.” **34** But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, **35** I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. **36** Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.” **37** And David said, “The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you!”

I. THE REALITY OF MINISTRY

A. We face overwhelming problems in every arena

1. Goliath represented and impossible problem — Ministry is a lot like Goliath
 - a) **Issues with money** - need more of it / building issues / people need a revelation of giving / working pastors need favor on the job with bosses
 - b) Issues with people - need breakthroughs in salvation / conversion - need supernatural growth
 - c) Forces of hell - The enemy wants to stop what God is doing

1 Samuel 17:24-25—All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid. **25** And the men of Israel said, “Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. And the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel.”

d) Hell defies God's church today - discourages men from stepping out and rising up

B. Wrong conclusions about ministry

1 Samuel 17:33 And Saul said to David, “**You are not able** to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth.”

1. What you have currently is not enough to make a difference
 - a) Mistake pastors can make is thinking that before you can do great things for God you have to be great
2. Outside circumstances determine victory or defeat
 - a) Our text - Saul was looking at outside factors as being main reason David would lose
 - b) Can look at age and experience in ministry and feel doomed because of what you lack
3. **Third conclusion - Victory in ministry all depends on me**
 - a) Its my talent / ability / intuition / street smarts — its the city/ the people/ the nation I was born into that causes victory in ministry

C. But the reality is - without God, ministry does not work right

1. We can approach ministry from the perspective of try harder
 - a) Work harder / outreach more/ pray more / give more/ do more
 - (1) Programs - *left handed Latvian ministry / kids programs / singles programs / youth programs / basket weaving club*
 - (2) Auditorium ambiance - *smoke machines / lighting / screens/ mood music when people walk in*
 - (3) Professionalism - *only the best musicians most talented people will bring what I want*
2. Results of ministry without God help
 - a) We become frustrated and discouraged
 - (1) Frustrated with your ministry - with your people - with yourself
 - (2) *Pastor Greg has said “Don't doubt in the dark what God showed you in the light”*
 - b) You assume ministry does not work any more
 - (1) Come to a place where settled convictions - things we used to believe - now we don't believe them
 - c) We can think God made a mistake about us - Maybe I'm not called / maybe I missed God

II. THE PRINCIPLE OF STEWARDSHIP

A. Borrowed sheep - Davids attitude for things that **don't belong to him**

1 Samuel 17:34 But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock,

1. **Stewardship is God's idea**
 - a) First stewardship means God has made us managers over His church and His people
 - b) We are not the owners of our churches / or our ministries
 - c) Truth is no matter where you are as a disciple - we are all stewards of something God had given us
 - (1) *Money, time, talent/ ability, relationship, other people, your job,*
2. Stewardship is tested when no one is looking
 - a) Much of what David went through with these sheep was in **complete isolation** - no one was looking
 - (1) Do you do right because people are watching? - *you could give a report - or because its right*
3. Stewardship reveals what's in our hearts

- a) David cared so much about the sheep that he was willing risk life to protect and rescue them - **do you view ministry the same way?**

1 Samuel 17:35 *I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him.*

- b) do you view the sheep/people you labor with the same way God views them
- B. Transferrable victories - second principle of stewardship
 - 1. David applied the early lessons of ministry to what he was facing later on in life
 - a) Your area of ministry might seem small and insignificant today but someday it will be more than sheep
 - b) David was responsible for sheep in this area of life - but it would later people peoples lives
 - c) Same is true in ministry - someday it will be peoples lives

1 Samuel 17:9 *If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us."*

When I was a concert director / pastor Greg asked me to make sure an outreach was planned and executed correctly - long story short - I didn't get it done / he said "Steven it's planning an outreach today but someday it will be peoples lives.

- 2. If God helped you in one area of life He can help you in others
 - a) This lesson can impact every area of your ministry

1 Samuel 17:36 *Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them*

- b) Maybe I've never fought a Giant but I have fought a lion and a bear
- 3. Fighting giants begins first with Responding to the need
 - a) Sometimes ministry is not glamorous or exciting - sometimes its just work and that's ok
 - b) Disciples are you available and ready to serve in only the ministries you want **or** are you willing to meet the need in areas you didn't expect - watching sheep by himself was probably not his first choice
 - c) **Everyone wants to kill the giant but no one wants to watch after the borrowed sheep..**

III. GREATER VICTORIES

- A. Stewardship leads to greater blessing

Luke 19:17 *And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.'*

- 1. Blessing in your ministry
 - a) Jesus is very clear - when we are faithful with a small amount then God will bless us with even more
 - (1) Pastors - need more converts / people in your church / need more money/ need people to have a greater revelation / more disciples that catch a revelation of God's purpose for their lives
- 2. God will cause you to have more influence and impact
 - a) David went from Sheep to people / Lions and bears to killing Giants then eventually being king
 - b) What started with faithful service in obscurity eventually lead to leading a nation
 - (1) David did not come to a place where stewardship no longer mattered - the stakes just got higher
 - (2) **It went from his fathers sheep to his Fathers Sheep - the nation of Israel**
- 3. God will bless your future
 - a) David would be in the line of Jesus - His obedience to steward the little that was entrusted to him impacts our lives today

- B. Stewardship leads to greater victories

- 1. Greater Giants are still ahead
 - a) IN your life and ministry - God is able to prepare you in obscurity for greater future blessing and victories
 - b) Disciples - God is calling some of you to pastoral ministry / pastors - God is calling some of you to be missionaries / other pastors you could send your men - Greater Victories
- 2. Ministry is progressive - Leads to greater and greater things
 - a) Where you are today is not the end of the story
 - b) — When I was a disciple - pastor Greg asked me to be the song leader in the Prescott church then told me - Ministry is going from one thing that terrifies you to another

- C. Stewardship Becomes a reference point for all of life

1 Samuel 21:8–9–8 *Then David said to Ahimelech, "Then have you not here a spear or a sword at hand? For I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste." 9 And the priest said, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you struck down in the Valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take it, for there is none but that here." And David said, "There is none like that; give it to me."*

- 1. God uses past victories as a reference for future victories
 - a) The sword of Goliath in the hands of David again - why / because David was faithful to what God had given him
- 2. Encouraging for men who have been in ministry for a long time
 - a) You years of faithful service - some serving even in obscurity is not wasted - God takes notice
- 3. What's in your hands right now? - what borrowed sheep are in your care today?
 - a) This is what God has given you - when you care for what He has given you - then He will give you more