

Preparation (1 Sam 16,17) and Plan (1 Sam 18 and onward)

### 1 Samuel 18:1-2 = Saul took David and didn't let him return home

- David's preparation for being king had already begun long before when he was a shepherd
- David's life would be different now. Now he was entering a stage of life where it's too late to go back
- David's tomorrow was forced on him today
- David didn't have any opportunity or time to go back and finish his preparation. It was now "game on"
- We see that after David was anointed and defeated Goliath he went back with Saul and Saul didn't let him go home anymore
- David was brought to Saul once prior in 1 Samuel 16:14-22. After the spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and the Lord sent a troubling spirit to Saul, the servant of Saul said someone should be brought to Saul who can play a harp to comfort Saul. David goes and plays his harp and comforts Saul. But, then in 1 Samuel 17, the Israelites and Philistines gathered for battle and David was sent home to take care of the sheep
- This time (after defeating Goliath) David doesn't go home. David becomes a warrior in the army. Saul sets him over soldiers and sends him out to fight the battles of the Lord
- It's funny to think that Saul should have taken David with him to the battle and not sent home. It would have saved everyone a lot of time

### The Timing of Preparation

~ So we see from this that preparation for tomorrow in the plan of God has already begun

~ What we did yesterday is preparing for us for tomorrow

~ When the new trial or situation comes there's no time for preparing for it. It's here and we have to respond

~ Prayerfully we've been walking and growing in the Lord as preparation for tomorrow

### Summary of David's Preparation

He was a Shepherd

He fought a lion and a bear (in later chapters it's Saul)

He had a relationship with God

He had confidence in a faithful God

### David's Preparation Takes Place in 1 Samuel 16,17

- His being a shepherd and his sheep are mentioned 6 times in 1 Sam 16,17
- **1 Samuel 16:1-13** = David is anointed by Samuel to be the next king. The side note of the anointing is Jesse didn't even call David when Samuel showed up. David was taking care of the sheep. We learn that David was a shepherd. This is important. Because David's job of being a shepherd wasn't the noblest of professions but it's what God used to prepare David
- The Lord took David from the sheepfold and made him the shepherd of His people
- *Psalm 78:70-72 He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds: 71 From following the ewes great with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance. 72 So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skilfulness of his hands.*
- We're going to see in 1 Samuel 17 that David faced many dangers as a shepherd that prepared him for Goliath and the rest of life
- The life of a shepherd wasn't an easy one. It was one of solitude and danger
- As a shepherd David had to protect his sheep from wild animals (a bear and a lion in particular)
- **1 Samuel 16:14-22** = David is brought before Saul to play his instrument to calm Saul. We see another distinguishing factor of David is that he's instrumental at playing what was probably a harp. We see this preparation of being able to play a stringed instrument come in handy later as David becomes the "sweet Psalmist of Israel." He writes many of these Psalms when he's in trouble and on the run from Saul. We see him writing when about his sin in Psalm 51
  - He's called the sweet Psalmist of Israel (2 Samuel 23:1)

- **1 Samuel 17:1-11** = The Israelite army has gone to the valley of Elah to face off against the Philistines. Here were introduced to Goliath. Goliath is about 9ft tall and has impressive armor for battle. He's hurling his insults at Israel
  - David is back home taking care of the sheep again.
- **1 Samuel 17:12-16** Jesse's three oldest sons are at the battle. This is important because Jesse is going to send David with some food for David's brothers and their captain
- **1 Samuel 17:17-19** = Jesse tells David to take food to the battle for his brothers and their captain
  - David leaves the sheep with a keeper (we see here that David has been shepherding once again)
  - This shows David's diligence in being a shepherd because he's arranged for the sheep's care
  - It reminds us of the importance of taking our business serious – this is part of preparation
- **1 Samuel 17:20-29** = David comes into the camp and sees and here's what's going (which isn't really anything) and because he starts asking questions his oldest brother Eliab derides him because David only asked the question, "is there not a cause?"
- **1 Samuel 17:30-39** = David's preparation as a shepherd pays off. David must have said he would fight Goliath because this word reached Saul. When word reaches Saul that David is willing to fight Goliath it gives David an opportunity to share his testimony. His preparation as a shepherd pays off
  - Preparation for Goliath – A bear and a lion
    - Past tests give us confidence that we can make through the next trial
  - Preparation was a relationship with God – David's heart was already swelled up a love for God so that when Goliath defied the armies of God David was offended for the Lord's sake and wanted to defend the honor and name of God
  - Preparation involved confidence in God to face Goliath
    - V36 – Goliath will be as the lion and bear because he's defied the army of the living God
      - David knew who the captain of the Lord's army was. It was the Lord
    - V37 – The Lord delivered David out of the paw of the lion and bear and the Lord will deliver David out of the hand of Goliath also
- **1 Samuel 17:40-58** = David's preparation involved defeating Goliath
  - David had to actually go and fight Goliath. He didn't "Jedi mind-trick" his way to victory
  - In this battle we see David's preparation of having a relationship with God coming into play.
  - He was zealous for the Lord
    - We can recall Phinehas being zealous for the Lord by stopping the plague.
    - The Lord says, "Phinehas was zealous for my sake (Num 25:11)"
  - He was confident in God (v45-48)
    - Hebrews 10:35 to not cast away your confidence because it has a recompense of reward
  - He knew this was the Lord's battle
    - Joshua 7 Joshua saw the captain of the Lord's host and asked whose side he is on and the Lord responded by saying I am the captain of the Lord of Hosts. Meaning you should be on my side
  - David ran to the battle
    - David shows us his approach to the test – he ran to it
    - This springs from his relationship with God – God's faithfulness and his confidence in God

## Conclusion

### ~ The profession of preparation (this refers to David being a shepherd)

- It may something uncomfortable, it may be mundane; we may not like it but whatever it is God can use it to prepare us for the next thing in the plan of God. David was a shepherd which wasn't a glamorous job. No one thought of David being a shepherd until it was shepherding which taught him how to use a sling. The tabloids of the days didn't write about the life of David as a shepherd until he defeated Goliath
- The process is a lonely one – David was most likely alone in his preparation as took care of sheep and killed a lion and a bear

### ~ The problem of preparation (this refers to David fighting the lion and bear)

- David's preparation was the mundane (the same day in and day out in taking care of sheep), it was scary (it involved a lion and a bear. It doesn't get much scarier than that)
- David had a lot of preparation to be king of Israel and it wasn't easy preparation. The Lord allowed David to go through a lot of hard things and it helped make David a good king whose heart was after the Lord
- Later David is on the run from King Saul as Saul tries to kill him. Saul tries to get others to kill him (first at the hand of the Philistines, then his servants and even his own son Jonathan) and then when that doesn't work he tries killing David himself with his Javelin on two different occasions (1 Sam 18:10,11; 19:9,10)

### ~ The Problem of Preparation

- Will we let God prepare us through the things in our life right now? Will we let God do his work in us right now? We may fight the plan's particulars but God wants to use the particulars to prepare for greater use in the kingdom
- Preparation is going to involve hard things
- What kind of preparation is the Lord putting you through?

### ~ The Perspective of Preparation

- What this does is it helps me stop looking at life's people and problems as a nuisance but as a part of the preparation for the plan of God
  - This will keep us from complaining because we'll have the right perspective
- I need to look at my current situation and see it as preparation for what's next in the plan of God. We may not be thinking what's next in the plan of God but we should be. We should always have an ear to the Lord asking him, "Lord, what do you want from my life?"
- What this does is it reminds me to instead of being frustrated and discouraged about my current situation and ask the Lord what he wants to do in and through my life now. Also considering what can I learn about myself that needs to change going forward?

### Others who were Prepared by God

- 1 Joseph – While his betrayal by his brothers was hard, being a slave was hard, being lied about by Potiphars' wife was hard, and being forgotten in prison by the butler it was all part of God's preparation for Joseph
- 2 Moses – No doubt Pharaoh's house prepared him for leading the Israelites. He learned skills that would have helped him be a leader. 40 years in the desert also prepared him to be God's leader
- 3 Joshua – His time of serving under Moses was a time of preparation for greater usefulness as Israel's next leader
- 4 Jesus – He had to be tempted by the devil 40 days and nights in preparation for public ministry

### Summary of David's Preparation (1 Sam 16,17)

- 1 He was a Shepherd – it wasn't glamorous
- 2 He fought a lion and a bear (in later chapters Goliath and Saul) – it wasn't easy
- 3 He had a relationship with God – it was spiritual
- 4 He had confidence in a faithful God – it was confidence

How is God preparing you right now??????