**“The Lion, the Bear and the Lord”**

(A Lesson from David, a young shepherd boy)

Sunday, October 4, 2020

Series: King Saul - Part 11

* Today I want to look, **not at King Saul**, but at the future **King** **David, before he was king. Today we may see why God chose this shepherd boy to replace the rogue, King Saul.**
* David had a **job**, “to **watch and care for the sheep**.”
* Apparently, **David was good at this** and understood better than most, the ins and outs of **what makes a Good Shepherd**.
* **Who taught David these things**?

In **Psalm 23,** **David describes God’s providential care** in providing **refreshment**, **guidance**, **protection**, and **abundance**, and David shows his **confidence** **in the Lord,** who is David’s personal shepherd as we read in:

**Psalm 23 – KJV – A Psalm of David; he begins…**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

* How many of us came to church this morning, saying, “**The Lord is my shepherd, I don’t need a thing. God has provided everything I need.”**

• When I read these words, it reminds me of **John 10** where Christ’s relationship to His people is often **represented by the figure of a shepherd**, as **Jesus said;**

**11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”**

**2** The one who enters by the gate **is the shepherd of the sheep**. **3** The **gatekeeper** opens the gate for him, and **the sheep listen to his voice**. **He calls** his own sheep **by name** and **leads them** out. **4** When he has brought out all his own, **he goes on ahead** of them, and **his sheep follow him because they know his voice**.

• Those sheep don’t have any worries because of their **proximity** **to** and **relationship** **with** the shepherd.

• The sheep **trust** the shepherd,

• They **stay close** to the shepherd.

**Listen to David’s words and feel free to join me in quoting Psalm 23:**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**2** He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

**3** He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**4** Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

**5** Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

**6** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

* All of these **terms in Psalm 23 relate to the shepherd** **and his care for the sheep.** He is the **protector** of the sheep and **provides** all they need including **rest**, **good pasture** and **slow moving water** to drink from.
* Whether it is **green pastures**, the **shadow of death**, or the presence of our **enemies**; **goodness and mercy followed** **David** and he said that he would dwell in the house of the Lord, forever.
* Once again, this is the “**confidence”** **David** has in **his shepherd**, the **Lord**.
* So, how did that **confidence** “**play out” in David’s daily life**, especially in relationship to, “**The Lion, the Bear and the Lord?**
* David first used a portion of this phrase in **1 Samuel 17:33-35 as …**

**33** Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.”

**34** But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. **When a lion or a bear came** and carried off a sheep from the flock, **35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep** from its mouth. **When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it.**

* In reality, lions and bears are **scary**, to us but David did what any good shepherd would do, “**David** **protected the sheep.”**
* So what **weapons** **did David use** to kill the **lion** and the **bear**?
* A **slingshot**, and maybe a **knife**?
* One thing is for sure, it took the **confidence** of knowing that His **personal shepherd** was with him, helping him.
* **David’s encounter** with the **lion** and the **bear** was “**preparation”** for his encounter with “**Goliath”** and David never gave Goliath a second thought.
* **Where does the “confidence” to fight the lion, the bear and Goliath, come from?**
* **David seems so “calm” before the battle as he is determined to venture where “no one else would go,” and take up Goliath’s challenge, defending Israel, and the name of the God he served.**

**As we look at David’s “confidence,” please see David as a type of the great “Son of David - Jesus**,” and think about the **confidence this should give us, as we consider……**

1. **THE CONFIDENCE OF DAVID**.

**David does not go into this battle with any kind of hesitation or fear**, but instead, **David** is “**certain”** of the **result**.

* From the natural eye, you view David as a teenage boy of maybe **5 feet 7 inches**, compared to a giant of **9 feet 9 inches**.
* But, as David views the situation, he says…

— **“Let no man’s heart fail him. Your servant will fight with this uncircumcised Philistine.”** – V. 32

* It would have been bragging if **David** had not said it so, “**matter of fact.”**
* Humility doesn’t mean you have to live in doubt or fear. **You can be both humble and confident as David was.**

1. **The confidence of David centered on his own personal experience.**

* David’s **experience came** from his **care for the sheep**.
* The only way to **gain** that experience is to be “**out there**,” in the **heat** and **cold**, facing the **danger** of the **wild**.
* While David was out there with the sheep, **God** was giving David, “**on the job training**” as he learned about **sheep** and about **God**.
* Many believers **dismiss** what seem to be the “**simple assignments**.” I would say that **David, “made the most” of his time** with the **sheep**; “**praying**, **singing**, **writing psalms** and **learning”** from his own personal shepherd.
* David **learned** how to be a **shepherd**, he learned how to **fight** and how to **worship** the one true God.
* How many “**on the job training - opportunities”** do we **waste** when we could be **gaining experience** that would **teach us** about **spiritual warfare**, about the **enemy**, and that can “**instill confidence”** **to face Goliath challenges that appear in our lives?**
* We know that God in mercy often keeps **young believers** from trials they are **not** ready to face.
* Yet **David** is a **young teen who had much experience in the things of God. Which brings us to…..**

1. **Confidence in God will ‘not’ come from bench/or in the bleachers.**

* When David was **young in years** he was **old in experience**, because he had **watched**, **learned** and **experienced** **God’s** **hand** in his **life** and in his **work**.
* David was **not idle** **physically** or **spiritually**.
* David **worshipped**, **worked**, and **studied.**
* David’s **experience and preparation** delivered him out of the jaw of the **lion**.
* And when David went out to meet the **bear** that came with a roar, **David**, **chose not to retreat**, because killing bears was a part of his duty as a shepherd and **His duty taught him faithfulness of God.**
* Many have seen lions and bears, **but have** **no experience because they are professional bench warmers or watch from the bleachers**.
* To learn as **David** did, we must prepare ourselves by learning from **the opportunities God gives us**.
* **You can’t** **sit on the bench** or watch from the bleachers. You must **see** the opportunities, **seize** them and **learn** from them.
* Have you **fought** the good fight where God has sent you?

**Well then,**

* **Your reward for fighting, is “a bigger target!”**
* To keep your edge, you must fight from a “**love** for **Christ”** and with a desire, “**to** **glorify Him**.”

1. **Therefore, kill your lions, and kill your bears, so that you can have the confidence and experience to kill your Philistines.**

* There are **plenty of Philistines**, figuratively speaking**,** but **David** had the **courage and experience** to **go into battle**.
* **Some Christians have neither** the **courage** nor the **experience** because they haven’t spent time with God, fighting the lions and bears of **life** (symbolically speaking of course).
* Creatures like **lions**, **bears** and **Goliath’s** make lots of **noise**, but while their noise may keep the “**talkers”** away, **it will not deter the “David’s” among us.**
* **Those “talkers” who never fight**,
  + **are “soldiers” who have never smelled powder**!
  + **“Warriors” who faint at the sight of blood!**
  + **And they will never “take up their cross” and follow Jesus into battle.**

**But Paul tells you and I: 1 Corinthians 15:58 - KJV**

**Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.**

1. **David’s confidence comes from experience, and ours must as well.**

* Listen to David as he combines **human** **confidence with the divine**.

David said;

* “**Your servant** killed both the lion and the bear, and this uncircumcised Philistine **shall be like one of them**” (– 36):

— That is the “**human**.”

But David also said;

* ‘**The Lord who delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine’**” (37) - **That is the “divine**.”
* **David’s killing of the lion and the bear and the Philistine is clear; but God’s delivering him out of the jaw of the lion, and the paw of the bear, and the hand of the Philistine, is equally clear.**
* **When I preach, I need to prepare and study as if it all depends on me, however, when I am finished studying, I am to trust in God as if I had done nothing at all.**
* **The same view should be taken** “**in** **your life”** **and** “**your service”** **for God**. Work with “**all your heart,” and then remember that**;

**“it is God who works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”** Philippians 2:13

* **How is that Philistine to be killed? – One says by God,”**
* **While another says, “True; but not without a David.”**
* **If David goes with his sling and stone, in the name of the Lord of hosts, nothing can protect Goliath’s forehead.**
* **If you and I will go in the name of the Lord of hosts to do what he calls us to do, nothing will be able to stop us. The question is:**
* Do you have the **confidence**?
* Do you have the **experience**?

**Can you say with David….**

“Your **servant** killed both the lion and the bear, and your servant can kill this Philistine too.

**David looked forward to this “new challenge.”** The challenge of **defending the name of His God**. Yes, I will kill the Philistine.” - **Are you like David this morning?**

**In John 11, Mary** weeps for **Lazarus**; but **Jesus** **prepared her** to see her brother rise again. – **What is God preparing you for this morning?**

**In John chapter 20; Thomas**, beginning to doubt; but he will still be blessed when **he** **sees Jesus alive,** and

**YOU** **to**, **can be** “**more than conquerors”** through the name of **Jesus** who **shepherds His children as they fight against**, **Lions**, **bears** and **giants**.

* **Do you have the “confidence” to face the world and our enemy?**
* **Never miss an opportunity to; “GO” and fight “in the name of the Lord.”**

**Say with me….**

— “Let no man’s heart fail him. **Your servant** **will** **fight** with this uncircumcised Philistine.” – V. 32