

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP SERIES (4)

To aspire to leadership is an honorable ambition -1 Timothy 3:1 (NEB)

LEADERSHIP LESSONS: DAVID IN BETHLEHEM

Ps Daniel Chua

Introduction

David's life is found in Scripture in 1 Samuel 16-31; 2 Samuel 1-24; 1 Chronicles 1-29 and in the Psalms.

The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart
(1 Sam. 13:14)

David: Served the purpose of God in his own generation
(Acts 13:36)

By studying the life of David we learn what God is looking for and how David developed the "spiritual root system" in his secret history in God.

God's Agenda

Jesus had a journey that he took from Bethlehem to the Right Hand of God the Father. He was not born on the throne but in a manger. There was a process and a journey that He had to take.

It was the same with David. David started off at Bethlehem and he went through 4 different steps in his life:

- 1) Bethlehem
- 2) Adullam
- 3) Hebron
- 4) Zion

Each of these places represented a specific lesson we believers must learn in order to rule and reign in Christ. If we want to reign, then we've got to be trained.

What Does Bethlehem Represent?

Bethlehem represents faithfulness in natural things.

During his Bethlehem years (until David was about 17 years old); he developed his spiritual root system in these three parts of his life:

- David developed his spiritual identity, as one loved by God and who loved God
- David walked in humility by being faithful in small things
- David gained understanding of God's Word

Instead of focusing on "establishing himself" in the eyes of people, David's sense of value or success was found in his intimacy with God.

4 Unchanging Principles About Faithfulness

Principle No. 1:

Faithfulness in the natural things brings *REVELATIONS* in spiritual things.

David was faithful in the natural. He did whatever his father told him to do. He made it his responsibility that the sheep he was responsible for was well-fed.

The whole purpose of our position in Christ is to be able to receive the grace to do what is right in the present time. And doing right is more than just in prayer and meditation; it is drawing closer to God as we go about our daily work, keeping our homes clean, caring for our children, going to work on time.

Principle No. 2:

Faithfulness in the natural brings *OPPORTUNITIES* in the spiritual.

David's obedience to his father in one simple errand resulted in him becoming the Champion of Israel. In 1 Sam 17:17-18, we see how David was given a command by his father to do an errand and David didn't have to pray about whether he was going to do it. He just did it.

Principle No. 3:

Faithfulness in the natural brings *VICTORY* in the Spiritual

It was David's victory over the lion and the bear, his faithfulness in the natural that gave him the victory over Goliath. When he saw the giant, he knew that by God's grace, he could take out that giant.

Principle No. 4:

Faithfulness in the natural brings *PROMOTION* in the Spiritual

David was a good shepherd, a good son and a good servant & his faithfulness brought him increase & promotion in every area of his life. Now David was not looking for promotion. All he was trying to do was to be faithful.

It is not our business to try to be promoted. When you try to promote yourself, what you are actually doing is: you are demoting yourself spiritually. God doesn't want you to promote yourself. If there is any promotion that needs to be done, let God be the One to do it.