

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Six : Spiritual Principles, Life Lessons, and Holy Warnings Seen in the History of David

I. Overview:

In the history of David, we need to see God's sovereignty and David's learning the lessons of the cross. Under God's sovereignty David was tested and approved in his trusting God and defeating Goliath. David's experience as a shepherd had trained him to trust in the Lord, Jehovah delivering him from the paw of the lion and of the bear in his shepherding of his father's sheep, thus He would deliver him from the hand of Goliath. David, under God's sovereignty, was selected to be an attendant of Saul; by these two being put together, David was learning the lessons of the cross for him to be a broken man. David was zealous to build a temple for God, but God rejected David's good intention; God sent Nathan the prophet to tell David stopping building the temple. This act of David's stopping to carry out his desire to build the temple is a great matter; he prepared the builder, the site, and the materials for the building of the temple. After all the enemies of Israel were subdued and David was exalted as the king of Israel, David committed great sins while he was in a peaceful situation. We can see from the history of David that falling under God's governmental hand is a serious matter; David restored his fellowship with God very quickly, but God's discipline continued even after his death.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound that David was tested, approved and defeating Goliath in 1 Samuel 17.

In 1 Samuel 17 David heard Goliath's defiance; David considered that Goliath was defying the armies of the living God. He also considered that to kill such a defier was to turn away the reproach from Israel. David had the assurance that Jehovah would deliver him from the hand of Goliath. David's assurance was based upon his experience of Jehovah delivering him from the paw of the lion and of the bear in his shepherding of his father's sheep.

B. Describe how David fought against Goliath.

David went forth to fight against Goliath. He took his staff, chose five smooth stones from the brook, and held his sling in his hand. On this day Jehovah will deliver you up into my hand, and I will strike you and remove your head from you. And I will give the corpses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of heaven and to the animals of the earth on this day. And all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel.

Day 2 —

A. Expound David to be tested in his relationship with Saul.

Under God's sovereignty, David was selected to become an attendant of Saul. God put these two together to live and work together Saul and David became a test to each other. For David to be tested in his relationship with Saul meant that David was continually put on the cross. In the church, the only way for us in our married life is to go to the cross and remain there, allowing the cross to terminate our flesh.

B. State why Saul eyed David.

As David returned from striking the Philistines, the women came out of all the towns of Israel to meet Saul and they said, "Saul has struck down his thousands; / But David, his ten thousands". When Saul heard this praise, he was displeased. So Saul eyed David from that day on. Saul went from being envious of David to plotting how he might kill him without damaging his own name. David did not fight or to avenge himself, but he was fleeing.

Day 3 —

A. Explain that David had the chance to kill Saul, but he feared God and did not dare do it.

David would not kill Saul but only cut off a corner of Saul's cloak. However, even for this David's heart smote him, because of his fear of God in that Saul was God's anointed. In God's kingdom there is a divine order of authority. Saul was the king appointed and anointed by God. Saul was therefore the divine authority, and David feared God in this. David kept the God-ordained order of authority.

B. Expound David being one who knew God's authority.

He considered Saul as lord, the anointed of Jehovah. This speaks of an important matter that submission to authority is not submission to a person, but to the anointing on the person, the anointing which was upon him

when God set him up as authority. David knew that Saul was God's anointed. Hence, he could only seek for his own escape; he could not put forth his hand to hurt Saul. He was just under the cross to suffer the dealing.

Day 4 —

A. Explain how David cared for the Ark of God.

David cared for the Ark of God. After David became king, he did not forget God's dwelling place on earth. David had a heart to build a temple for God. God accepted his heart, but God did not want David to build a temple for Him. David prepared the materials for the building of the temple of God. David's heart for God was desperate. Although God did not want him to build the temple, he prepared the materials for the building of the temple.

B. Expound that all our work and service in the church must be initiated by God.

Anything that is initiated or started by man, regardless of how much it is for God, is a religious activity. In God's eyes this kind of activity is not His service or His work. God considers only what He has initiated and started as a service and work to Him. Nothing should be initiated by us; only God can initiate something.

Day 5 —

A. Explain that God is not only loving, but also just and fearsome in the David's sins.

God forgave David, but on the other hand, He disciplined and chastised David according to His governmental righteousness. In God's punishment, the first child born of the wife of Uriah died. In God's sovereign mercy, another child was born of her. The name given to him by God was Jedidiah, which means the beloved of Jehovah. David gave him the name Solomon, which means peaceful.

B. Expound that we are easily to be seduced to indulge our flesh in a peaceful situation.

Whenever we are in a peaceful situation, it is easy for us to be seduced to indulge our flesh.

David's sin was the issue of his indulging of the lust of the eyes and the lust of the flesh. David committed a willful adultery by robbery, abusing the power of his kingship. This was a real insult to God. David's great sin nearly annulled all his attainments from the past.

Day 6 —

A. Explain what a warning to us about David's sins.

David restored his fellowship with God very quickly after his confession, but God's discipline continued even after his death. God's government would not depart from him as long as His discipline was upon him. This should be a solemn alarm and warning to us in our relationship with Christ. If we are wrong in any of the matters mentioned above, we will suffer the loss of Christ as our enjoyment.

B. Expound how we should treat people with caution.

We should not only be generous in forgiving others but also avoid criticizing or speaking about others in a light way. Our criticism and careless comments about others often become a judgment upon ourselves. The more generous we are to others, the more generous God will be to us. If we are mean and severe to our brothers, God will also be mean and severe to us.

III. Conclusion:

Throughout the history of David's life, he shepherded sheep at his youth in the wilderness, fought against the lions and bears for the sake of the sheep, and defeated Goliath just like the rising sun rose. Then God dominated him at Saul's hands, heroically killed the Philistines, was praised and jealous, learned the lessons of the cross, and finally, was anointed by Samuel as the king of Israel. David's life had a good beginning, like the bright sun rising, and his life with his career became like the sun shining at noon. However, his indulgence in lust spoiled his career and caused his bright life to fade like the sunset in the evening. In David's old age there was nothing bright, excellent, or splendid. Through the confessing of his sins, David's fellowship with God was restored, as revealed in Psalm 51, but he came under God's governmental hand; after his failure many evils, including incest, murder, and rebellion, took place among his family.