



David

“Young Lions”

“Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward.” I Samuel 16:13 KJV

David was like so many of us. He would do two things right and then did one thing wrong. But, he was chosen by God; and that's all that matters. Christ was born through the lineage of David.

According to the writing in 1st Samuel, he was a handsome lad with red hair and was short in stature. He was a shepherd, and like many shepherds, he had some musical skills. This background and musical skill is shown in the 23rd Psalm, perhaps the best known of the Psalms which he wrote later in his life. But we are going to concentrate in this study on the young David.

David was the youngest of Jesse's sons and while the others went to battle, he was to stay home and take care of the flocks. But, his Dad sent him to the front lines with some food for his brothers and the king. Why would a father ever send his youngest son to the battle front when the other sons had already gone? But God works in mysterious ways.

Saul, the king, was distraught. He was being faced by a giant of a man, Goliath, who was nine feet tall. He didn't think any of his men who could do anything against him. Then young David said he was willing to do it. Saul jumped at the chance and even gave his armor to David and put a helmet on his head. David evidently felt this was too much and took it off and armed himself with five smooth stones and a sling shot.

As David approached Goliath, the Philistine, Goliath said. “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ‘Come here,’ he said, ‘and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!’” I Samuel 17:43-44. Those are pretty strong words to a young man who only has a few stones and a sling against a nine foot giant who is fully armed and supported by an army.

But young David was prepared. He answered. “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands.” I Samuel 17 45-47.

Then as Goliath approached David, David took one of his stones, put it in the sling and hit Goliath in the middle of the forehead. Just to make sure he was dead, he went with his sword, and cut off Goliath's head. The Philistines were scared. They ran and they were chased. The battle was over. Victory was given to Saul by a young boy who risked his life for his king. We can wonder why the troops did not support Goliath. Many times, we may feel we are not supported in our efforts, or we run from supporting someone else's efforts.

After the battle people wanted to know about this young man. When Saul asked him, he said “I am the son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem.” I Samuel 17:58. Young David had the Lord on his side, and did not need the material protection of metal armor.

But this is only the story of young David, one of the “young lions” of faith. After Saul's death, David became king of Israel, but life was never easy. He had many wives; his children would fight with each other. His beloved son, Absalom, died in a rebellion against David in an attempt to seize the throne for himself. Through all this turmoil, David was always a dedicated and repentant man of God, and God continued to bless him during his reign as king. Much of David's success as king resulted in lavish material gains which helped to corrupt him. Lust for Bathsheba caused David to commit adultery. David would go forth doing as the Lord wanted him to do and then his sins would cause him to backslide again!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we have so much to be thankful for – not only the daily bread and breath You give us, but especially the love of You and Jesus Christ that sustains and strengthen us each day. We like David, often falter in our steps, but through Your grace, we are forgiven. This we can never fully comprehend. Help us to seek in everyday life to be more like You would want us to be, knowing that You will never forsake us. Amen

1. Many of us are like David some times. Can you acquaint with David in any way?
2. I know a minister who compared our faith to the mercury in a thermometer. Sometimes it is very high and we are doing very well. Then it falls and we sin, but the faith is always there. Do you agree or disagree with that thought?
3. David was anointed with the Spirit of the Lord by Samuel when he was very young, and yet he sinned. Are we like him in that way?
4. What assurance do we have of forgiveness for our sinning?

© Gail Kennedy Keffer