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Title: David Chosen for Being Royal Material (2)

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32

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Greetings of peace to you. Today, we will share God's word from Hebrews 11:32.

32 What more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets. Amen.

Today is our second session about David, under the theme "David Chosen for Being Royal Material."

Let's recall the case of Barak we discussed earlier. Despite God's command in Judges 4:7, "I will deliver Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, into your hands," Barak said in verse 8, "If you go with me, Deborah, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go." To this, Deborah replied, as in verse 9, "Very well, I will go with you. But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman." And she asked, "Will you still go with me knowing this?"

Yet, Barak agreed to go with the prophet Deborah. He took joy in serving as a general under Judge Deborah, committing himself to a life of loyalty. Therefore, Hebrews 11:32 includes him among the figures of faith, which is of great significance. However, David was different from Barak.

David possessed the ability and means to defeat Goliath and the Philistines. In 1 Samuel 17:46, he declared, "Today the Lord will deliver Goliath into my hands," even though God had not explicitly told him, "I will deliver Goliath into your hands." David believed that God would surely deliver Goliath into his hands. Why did he think this way? David was confident that he alone could defeat Goliath. Thus, in the latter part of verse 46, David boldly proclaimed he would take Goliath's head and then stepped forward alone to confront him. This starkly

contrasts the characters of David and Barak.

Now, let's explore how David's actions differed from Barak's, especially in his extraordinary steps towards becoming king.

In 1 Samuel 17:25, David heard people at the battlefield saying, "The king will enrich the man who kills Goliath with great wealth, will give him his daughter in marriage, and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel." This was not an official decree from the king, but given the dire and urgent circumstances, people speculated that the king would surely reward the slayer of Goliath in such a manner.

David happened to hear this while at the battlefield. The way this young boy David seized upon these words is truly remarkable. As we see in verse 26, David went around the camp, deliberately asking everyone he encountered, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel?" He posed this question to many, inquiring here and there. What was David hoping for? He kept asking because he was expecting the reward that the king would give, which he had heard about earlier.

Why did David do that? Without a doubt, he wanted to make the promise of the king's reward for defeating Goliath a matter of public opinion by getting the people to repeat what he had heard earlier. In verse 27, as per David's plan, every person he met confirmed that the king would indeed give wealth, his daughter in marriage, and tax exemption to the man who killed Goliath. As a result, the word spread widely that King Saul would give his daughter and wealth to the slayer of Goliath, making such a reward seem like an expected outcome.

Looking at the latter part of verse 26, David elicited a reaction from the Israelites by asking them, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" Asking such a question was an act that stirred the pride of the Israelite people. David was thus rallying public opinion by even provoking the pride of the Israelites, all with the ultimate goal of

receiving the king's reward. From this, it's evident that David was no ordinary boy.

David's older brothers scolded him when he arrived at the battlefield. Despite coming on an errand from their father and delivering what he was supposed to give to his brothers, his brothers rebuked him, likely due to their longstanding disapproval of him. As seen in the latter part of 1 Samuel 17:28, David's eldest brother accused him of coming just to watch the battle. In response, David said in verse 29, "Is there not a cause?" Essentially, David was saying, "My brothers, why would I come to the battlefield without reason? Although I did bring food for you as father asked, that's merely a pretext. Contrary to what you think, I didn't come here just to watch the battle. That's secondary. My true purpose for being here is something else entirely."

David, undeterred by his brothers' words to return quickly, continued with his task, as seen in verse 30, where he turned away and persisted in what he was doing. He kept asking others about the reward the king would offer and received affirmative responses. Therefore, young David came to the battlefield not just to fulfill an errand from his father but specifically to shape public opinion in his favor. Although he arrived under the guise of completing a task, his true purpose was to influence the masses and secure a reward from the king.

Despite being the youngest, David was overconfident, so he was difficult for his brothers to handle. Therefore, in the latter part of verse 28, David's brother accused him, saying, "I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is." This reflects his brothers' tendency to ostracize him. However, David's behavior was not driven by arrogance or wickedness; it was because he was extraordinary.

Following David's plan, as seen in 1 Samuel 17:31, one of the people David had spoken to while circulating and shaping public opinion reported to King Saul. This report included the widespread belief that the king would reward the person who killed Goliath, along with David's question, "Who is this

uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" Consequently, King Saul finally summoned this extraordinary boy, David.

In verse 32, David tells Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." The young David, when making this statement, must have been thinking that if he could defeat Goliath, all the public discussion he had stirred up to this point would come true for him. David believed that by killing Goliath in accordance with public expectation, he would lay the groundwork for his ascent to the throne as he had hoped.

David likely calculated that if he won the king's daughter, his tactical and combat skills demonstrated in defeating Goliath would earn him a high military position. This, in turn, would facilitate his eventual claim to the throne. Therefore, it can be interpreted that these reasons led David to offer himself to fight Goliath to King Saul.

David eventually received the king's permission. King Saul initially told him, "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." However, the young David made a compelling appeal by recounting, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 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." Thus, David obtained Saul's permission and went on to behead the Philistine Goliath, effectively defeating the Philistines. This act led to David receiving many rewards from King Saul, just as he had shaped public opinion to expect.

Despite his youth, David demonstrated remarkable strategy and long-term planning. He also captured the hearts of the people in an instant by asking, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" While the king and the people were all in fear, David alone stepped forward without hesitation to confront Goliath. David's act of going forth without hesitation and killing Goliath shows that he was already a courageous individual.

In the first part of 1 Samuel 15:11, God says, "I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions." God was contemplating a change in leadership. He intended to appoint a new king to lead Israel. God was looking for someone exceptional like David—courageous, strategic, and possessing leadership qualities from a young age. Therefore, when God found David, as mentioned in the latter part of 1 Samuel 16:12, He said, "Anoint him; this is the one." God indicated that David had the capability to assume the role He intended, commanding, "Anoint him," to signify that David had been selected.

Because David was already brave, God said, "This is the one." David was the kind of person who could strategically and gradually bring the throne held by Saul to himself and secure his position as king. God intended to replace Saul and install a new king, and David was the person who could fulfill God's plan. Therefore, God told Samuel, "This is the one," and commanded, "Anoint him." The excellent strategies and courage that David exhibited were not a result of being anointed by God. Instead, God chose to anoint him as king because David was already courageous and capable of devising such brilliant strategies.

In 1 Samuel 16:18, David is described not only as courageous and a warrior but also as eloquent and skilled in playing the lyre. He is presented as a well-rounded individual with both intellectual and physical prowess, essentially embodying the ideal qualities of a king from his birth.

Indeed, as previously mentioned, God anointing David did not suddenly endow him with strategy and bravery. David was already a courageous individual with strategic acumen, which is why God chose to anoint him. This divine endorsement was a recognition of David's inherent qualities and potential for leadership, not the instillation of new traits.

But David did not consider the talents and abilities he possessed as his own. In the first half of 1 Chronicles 29:11, David praises God, saying, "Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours." David is acknowledging that all the

excellence he possesses belongs to God. He confesses that all the exceptional strategies, eloquence, bravery, and abilities he has are all God's. In the latter part of verse 12, David also praises God by saying, "In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all." David is confessing that the greatness and strength of every individual lay in God's hands, and therefore, everything owned by everyone is God's. In verse 14, David further confesses, "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand." This is David's confession after dedicating everything he possessed to God.

What does this mean? David is saying that he did not become who he is because of his own greatness. He confesses that he was born into this world by God's will and that his abilities were developed through God's empowerment. Therefore, he acknowledges that everything he owns belongs to God. Thus, David confesses that it is only right for everything he had to be offered for the glory of God.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, as we read the biblical account of David, we truly come to new understandings. Today, we often hear "Just believe, just believe, if you only believe, it will happen." However, upon objectively considering these words, we realize that they often express a desire only to receive miraculous deeds through faith. Yet, David's perspective was different from those who sought to add miraculous power to what they already possessed through faith. He believed that his birth into this world and his great abilities were all made possible by You, Lord. Therefore, David constantly dedicated himself for Your glory.

You have said, O Lord, that You do not demand from us what is beyond our capacity. Therefore, please enable us to dedicate to You all that we inherently possess from birth and the greater abilities we have acquired through training.

Reflecting on today's scripture, we see that from the moment David understood

that You had anointed him, desiring him to be king, he made endless efforts to fulfill Your will. He spent a long time striving to achieve Your purpose. Eventually, David succeeded in fulfilling Your will, becoming the king of Israel and liberating Israel from its enemies.

May we, like David, acknowledge that what we possess belongs to You and be enabled to dedicate ourselves to You.

Oh, Lord! There is much we can do for You with the strength we already possess. Yet, we often regard our possessions as solely ours, neglecting to use what we have for Your glory. Instead, we constantly ask for more, using what we have only for ourselves. How can such actions benefit us in the life to come, in eternal life?

Oh, Lord, make us like David. There is much we can do to bring glory to You with what we already have. When You need us, let us be used by You. Whether it be our material possessions, eloquence, artistic skills, or anything else, let it all be used for Your glory. Allow us to dedicate our lives entirely to You and lead us to You.

We earnestly pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen, amen.