

## Humility In Wisdom: 8

### The Humble Shepherd Servant [part 1]

Over this series of studies we have examined the lives of Jesus, John the Baptist and the two disciples James and John. We saw how they were exalted when they humbled themselves. We have studied and seen what Paul had to say about humility. We have also seen grace at work in the lives of Enoch and Noah. One of the greatest examples of the outworking of grace in the lives of the Old Testament characters is in the life of David. The Scriptures show us that as David humbled himself he too experienced a tremendous outpouring of God's grace which exalted him and raised him up.

Let us look at some occasions in his life:

#### 1. The young shepherd servant is anointed king

The story of David is one of great interest. From a young age he learned the secret of submission. But before we get on to him let us look at his predecessor Saul

One of the first references to David in the Bible is found in 1 Samuel 13.13-14

*“And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him *to be* commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.”*”

Saul had so many chances and opportunities thrust upon him but he failed to repent and he abused the power that was entrusted to him. Samuel speaking in these verses tells him that he has done foolishly (the opposite of wisdom), he did not act justly, nor did he walk humbly before God – things that God requires of man.

*“He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?”* Micah 6.8

His sin that ultimately cost him the throne wasn't so much the things that he did but the spirit in which he did them. His sin was the old sin of pride and egotism, and it was this that caused his downfall.

That spirit of pride led him to make that vital error in that he exalted himself and took on a function that was not his to fulfill – he took and offered the burnt offering (v5-14)

#### 1 Samuel 15.16-28

*“So Samuel said, "When you *were* little in your own eyes, *were* you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?”* (vs17)

When you were little in your own eyes - Humility exalts us. Saul was once humble and God anointed him king. But now he was man full of pride. He exalted himself and that was his mistake.

The throne was wrenched from him and given to David – this man after God’s own heart.  
“So Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, *who is better than you.*" (vs28)

Let us remind ourselves what the Scripture says about a haughty spirit of pride.  
“Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall. ” Proverbs 16.18

### Pride – The Spirit of satan

We must remember that pride is the spirit of satan. Satan (Lucifer) exalted himself and was brought low. In **Isaiah 14.12-15**, we read of his fall.

Ezekiel also says:

“Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.” (v17) **Ezekiel 28.13-17**,

Jesus said to His disciples “I saw satan fall like lightning from heaven” (Luke 10.18)

Remember we read in earlier studies that if we exalt ourselves we will be brought low (Luke 18.14).

This is the tragic story of Saul – a man who was physically head and shoulders above all others yet humble, raised himself spiritually head and shoulders above all others and fell. And God removed and replaced him...

So onto David,

### **1 Samuel 16.1-23**

David was ignored by his family (v11)

- He wasn’t invited to the feast!
- He was young and insignificant in their eyes
- He was ‘only good enough’ to tend the sheep

He was overlooked by the prophet (v12)

- Samuel noted his physical features, as he did the other brothers
- God prompted Samuel to ‘arise and anoint him’

Ignored by his family, overlooked by the prophet yet God looked deeper at the humbleness of his heart – God exalted him

The Bible gives us little indication to what his life was like.

- He was a shepherd (v11)
- He was handsome and good looking (v12)
- He was filled with the Spirit of God (v13)
- He was a skillful musician (v18)
- He wrote psalms – songs and hymns.

“Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, *who is* skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD *is* with him." Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who *is* with the sheep."” (v18-19)

The Bible also describes David in this verse as :

- a mighty man of valour
- a man of war
- prudent in speech

Where did he get these qualities, being just a youth?

- We don't read that David complained about looking after the sheep – they were in his care, he loved them, he would have given his life for them. He served his father by serving the sheep. We see a little of his love for the sheep in his testimony before Saul

“But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered *the lamb* from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught *it* by its beard, and struck and killed it.” 1 Samuel 17.34-35

Where did he get such wisdom that he could write some of the greatest psalms recorded in Scripture. Where did he get such prudence of speech.

These came from spending time in the presence of God. What do you think he was doing while he looked after the flock? (Psalm 16.11; Psalm 21.6; Psalm 51.11)

He was humble before God and God raised him up.