



DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Right Fight
Pastor Amie Dockery
December 3, 2017

Main Idea – God has our life’s purpose determined. Satan tries to tempt us into fights that divert from our purpose and separate us from the work of the rest of the Body of Christ. God often initially hides our ultimate purpose in order to protect it.

The story of Samuel and David

- 1 Samuel 16-17 tells of David’s call from God to be King of Israel, and how this call was protected by God as He prepared David for being king.
- Satan wants to bait us into the wrong fights so we will become distracted from the fights we are supposed to fight.
- God told the prophet Samuel to avoid looking at attributes humans valued in their leader; God had already chosen someone whose qualifications were not readily apparent. **1 Samuel 16: 7 says: But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him (meaning Eliab, David’s older brother.) For the Lord does not see as man sees; for a man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”**
- As soon as Samuel anointed David, the Bible says God’s anointing came upon David and left Saul. **1 Samuel 16: 13-14: Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah. But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him.**

God prepares the steps of your destiny

- Before becoming King of Israel, David was a shepherd and a worship leader. However, neither shepherding sheep or performing worship songs was the ultimate assignment God had for David.
- Shepherding, performing worship songs, and fighting enemy armies were all useful to David’s role as king. God was protecting David as he served in those roles for his ultimate position as king.
- **1 Samuel 16: 21-22: So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer. Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, “Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight.”**

Work on your strengths, not your weaknesses

- Don't try to be perfect, continually trying to account for your shortcomings.
- Don't be defensive, trying to protect people and ideas you believe are important. God will be your defense. God created you to be an offensive weapon.
- Don't try to elevate yourself to a higher calling. Pay attention for the small, incremental invitations God will give you as you move toward your eventual place.
- Don't dismiss your present tasks as being menial, or a waste of time.
- God is keeping your ultimate assignment hidden because He is protecting it for you.

Keep your heart clean when you fight

- Don't get lured into fights you are not meant to fight.
- **1 Samuel 17: 28** tells of a false accusation one of David's brothers brought against him that could have side-tracked David's attention: **Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."**
- If David had felt the need to defend himself against this accusation, he never would have gone ahead to fight Goliath: the real enemy he was supposed to fight at that time.
- Similarly, Saul attempted to mock David's qualifications to fight Goliath by offering his own armor to David (**1 Samuel 17: 38-39.**)
- Again, David resisted the temptation to become diverted from doing what he was supposed to be doing at that time.
- **Proverbs 4:23 – Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.**
- The right fight is to keep our hearts clean, and not get dirty with small fights. If we fight the small things in life, we end up making those small things big things. That is what Satan would like us to do.

You have been hidden for a purpose

- **1 Samuel 17: 55 – When Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this youth?"**
- As David was stepping into his true, ultimate purpose he was not recognizable in that role because God had hidden David as He prepared him.
- In the same way, God preserves us hidden from Satan (and other people) so that they will not use us for their own purposes.

- Don't try to be seen, or to be given recognition, while God is preserving you for your ultimate assignment.
- Even as we transition to our ultimate assignment, God may occasionally call us back to revisit our preparatory stages so we do not lose track of from where we have come. **1 Samuel 17:15 – But David occasionally went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.**

God is our shield and defense

- The nation of Israel's national symbol – the Star of David – is the Hebrew term "Magen David," which means "the shield of David."
- God is our armor-bearer. He is our defender. He gives us divine protection as we go about being His offensive weapon.
 - **Psalm 3:3 – But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the One who lifts up my head.**
 - **2 Samuel 22:31 – As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.**
 - **Psalm 5: 12 – For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; with favor You will surround him as with a shield.**
- If you have been defensive, fighting small battles that have diverted you from your anointed calling, repent and move toward the ultimate assignment God has prepared for you.

Reflective Questions for The Right Fight

1. Pastor Amie shared how God hid David as He was preparing him for the ultimate assignment. What are some things David learned as a shepherd, worship leader, and fighter that prepared him to be a good king?
2. How is it comforting to know that God is hiding us as He prepares us? Are you able to identify things you learned in circumstances you felt were menial or unimportant?
3. How can being defensive – feeling as though we need to explain things by defending our reputations – actually distract us from our true purpose?
4. How can trying to elevate ourselves actually work to undermine our ultimate purpose?