



A Spiritual Challenge for Graduation

Psalms 78:70-72



The Text for Today

“He chose David His servant and took him from the sheep pens; from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of His people Jacob, of Israel his inheritance. And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.”

Psalms 78:70-72



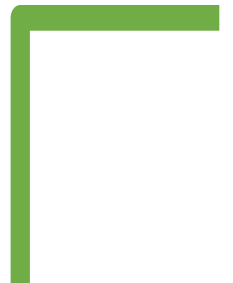
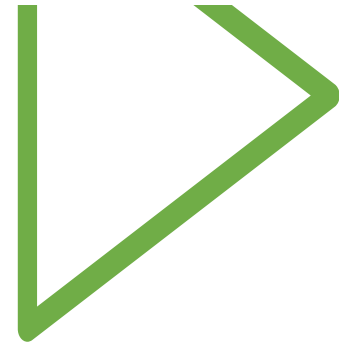
#1 Remember Your Beginnings

- God took David from the sheep pens (nothing lower)
- David's family didn't consider David "King's Material," when they were told that the next King of Israel would come from his house; 1 Samuel chapter 16
- David's father didn't even bring him to, "The Selection Service," to choose the King. He brought seven children and left David with these! Family "stigmas" can be negative. We are a generation of "Firsts"



We Need to “Remember!”

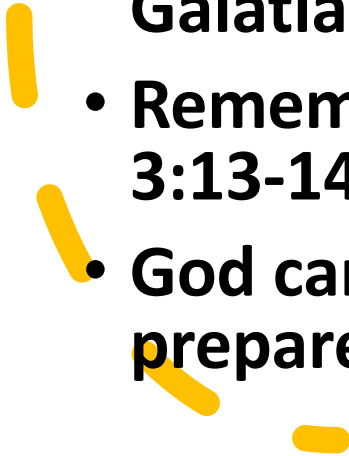
- We need to remember our towns (where we used to live)
- We need to remember what we used to do (we hadn't always had the titles we now wear)
- We need to remember the people God placed in our paths to get us to where we are now
- We need to remember our lives before we accepted Jesus Christ





We Need to Remember!

- If you were Christians as children, think of what your life would be like if God's providence wasn't directing your career advances; Proverbs 3:5-6
- Remember the highs and lows of serving Jesus Christ (the triumphs and the mistakes we've made). You have experienced the truth of Galatians 6:7
- Remember the past but don't live in it; Philippians 3:13-14; Rehearse what caused you to improve
- God can use what you've developed as tools to prepare you for your future





#2 Build Your Character

- Notice that an essential complement given to David here was not his victory over Goliath, or his military strategy, but his INTEGRITY!
- David had a moral compass that governed his behavior, whether it was right or wrong (see 2 Samuel 12:13-14). David realized that there were consequences for ungodly behavior that would affect his future
- There is a national debate going on: Should your private life affect your public life? (It's a moot question for R. Kelly, B. Cosby, J. Depp, W. Houston, T. Woods, H. Ruggs III)
- Character is built one block at a time by consistently making the right decisions over and over again until they become a part of your nature. Proverbs 4:23, *"Above all else guard your heart for everything you do flows from it."*



#3 Perfect Your Skills

- David led God's people with "skillful hands"
- This ability had to be learned
- He knew how to lead and protect sheep
- But he didn't know "instantly" how to lead and protect people
- There is an "art to leadership"
- Everybody can't be led the same way. Children, in the same family, are motivated differently





Some respond to examples, others to commands, and still others to personal coaching, or a mixture of the these





Listen to Paul in Colossians 3:23-24





“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ that you are serving.”

- Graduates, the road ahead may be complex and difficult for you (twist and turns you didn't expect)
 - There will be times when you actually wish your task were easier and that your responsibilities were less and not more
 - David was a successful C.E.O. because embedded in his skill set was a heart for God, and thus, he was not alone
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Paul Uses David's Life in His Sermon, Acts 13:22

“After removing Saul, He made David their king, God testified concerning him; I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.”

- Graduates, David's spiritual efforts were evident in his “daily skill set.” Make sure that yours are present and visible, Matthew 5:16 ***“Let your light so shine before men..”***
 - As you know David led a life, “out front,” and experienced his share of hardships and disappointments (some self generated)
 - Therefore, as you meet success in your chosen careers, be sure to stay visibly rooted and grounded in God. If you do, He will always be there to guide you; Psalms 119:105
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The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38

