

ExtraORDINARY #7 – David

Sermon by Todd Lester

October 23, 2016

Hebrews 11:6 And it is impossible to please God without faith.

Matthew 9:29 (NIV) “According to your faith let it be done to you.”

Hebrews 11:1 (GW), Psalm 32:8

WHEN I EXPECT THE BEST... 1 Samuel 17:1-52 (David faces Goliath)

1. IT _____ GOD

1 Samuel 17:46

2. IT _____ MY ABILITY

1 Samuel 17:49, Isaiah 40:31

3. IT _____ OTHERS

1 Samuel 17:52

HOW TO EXPECT THE BEST WHEN FACING A GIANT

1. _____ TO GOD EVERY MORNING

Psalm 5:3

a) go to _____ b) don't begin with _____ c) start with _____

2. _____ GOD'S PROMISES THROUGHOUT THE DAY

Psalm 119:95, Philippians 4:8, Hebrews 10:23

3. _____ GOD'S LOVE WHEN THINGS LOOK BAD

Psalm 42:11, Hebrews 12:10

4. _____ OTHER BELIEVERS

Psalm 119:63, Psalm 1:1, Hebrews 10:25, 1 Corinthians 15:33

VIP vs. VDP (Very I _____ People vs. Very D _____ People)

Taking Scripture to Heart

Have you ever memorized a passage of scripture? Choose a favourite verse (or more!) or pick one from the suggestions below. Copy it onto a small card to keep with you to help commit it to memory this week. Share with your group why you picked that verse.

Philippians 4:8 Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

Psalm 118:24 This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 19:14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Ephesians 4:32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you

Isaiah 40:31 But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Hebrews 11:1 Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.

Psalm 103:1 Let all that I am praise the Lord; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name.

Colossians 3:23 Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people

Ephesians 4:29 Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

Philippians 4:6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

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Hebrews 11:6 And it is impossible to please God without faith.

Matthew 9:29 (NIV) “According to your faith let it be done to you.”

Hebrews 11:1 (GW) Faith assures us of things we expect and convinces us of the existence of things we cannot see.

Psalms 32:8 The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.”

WHEN I EXPECT THE BEST...

1 Samuel 17:1-52 (David faces Goliath)

1. IT HONOURS GOD

1 Samuel 17:46 Today the Lord will conquer you ... and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel!

2. IT INCREASES MY ABILITY

1 Samuel 17:49 Reaching into his shepherd’s bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground.

Isaiah 40:31 But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

3. IT INSPIRES OTHERS

1 Samuel 17:52 Then the men of Israel and Judah gave a great shout of triumph and rushed after the Philistines, chasing them as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron ...

HOW TO EXPECT THE BEST WHEN FACING A GIANT

1. TUNE IN TO GOD EVERY MORNING

a) go to bed early b) don’t begin with the news c) start with worship

Psalms 5:3 Listen to my voice in the morning, Lord. Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly.

2. THINK ON GOD’S PROMISES THROUGHOUT THE DAY

Psalms 119:95 Though the wicked hide along the way to kill me, I will quietly keep my mind on Your laws.

Philippians 4:8 Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.

3. TRUST IN GOD’S LOVE WHEN THINGS LOOK BAD

Psalms 42:11 Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again—my Saviour and my God!

Hebrews 12:10 For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God’s discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness.

4. TALK WITH OTHER BELIEVERS

VIP vs. VDP (Very Inspirational People vs. Very Draining People)

Psalms 119:63 I am a friend to anyone who fears you—anyone who obeys your commandments.

Psalms 1:1 Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.

1 Corinthians 15:33 Don’t be fooled by those who say such things, for “bad company corrupts good character.”

Hebrews 10:25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

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Icebreaker/Introduction

The 'Taking the Scripture to Heart' activity focuses on Todd's challenge to us to memorize some Bible passages. Encourage participants to select a verse from the list or from their Bible. Discuss differences in translations (the ones on the page are NLT) for memorizing. Give time to copy the verse onto a small card (NOTE: you'll need to prepare these beforehand – cut from thicker paper, template is attached). Have people share why they chose that particular verse.

Ask if there was anything from this week's message that stood out – either a point that was made which really resonated with them, or perhaps a question or difficulty that came up for them.

Can you recall the words Todd used to describe what he would like to see us do with our faith? (strengthen, deepen, stretch, grow, develop, challenge)

Discuss Todd's statement that faith is "expecting the best." What if 'the best' doesn't happen? Does it help to add the words 'expecting the best from God'? Todd expanded the definition to say: 'God is in control of my future and He plans what's best for my life because He loves me.' If God is in control of my future how does my free will play a part?

WHEN I EXPECT THE BEST...

1 Samuel 17:1-52 (David faces Goliath)

1. IT HONOURS GOD

Focuses on 1 Samuel 17:46

What are some other words we could use in addition to 'honours'? (eg. pleases, glorifies, exalts, acknowledges)

Read 1 Samuel 17:34-37. How did David's previous experiences influence his faith?

If David had not had success against Goliath (perhaps even been killed) would his faith still have honoured God?

2. IT INCREASES MY ABILITY

Focuses on 1 Samuel 17:49, Isaiah 40:31

Todd said that faith has the power to change your attitude about life like nothing else. How is this different than positive thinking? (Todd has said that positive thinking can be helpful with things we can control, faith brings God into the equation)

Read Isaiah 40:31. Share about a time when you prayed to God for new strength.

What 'increases my ability'? My faith, God, both?

3. IT INSPIRES OTHERS

Focuses on 1 Samuel 17:52

The word 'encourages' was originally used instead of 'inspired'. Is there a difference between these two and if so what is it? (eg. does inspire lead to action or can encouragement do that as well?)

Todd pointed out that the entire nation was encouraged by David's faith. Share about when your faith was encouraged by someone else (eg. another person's answer to prayer, healing, etc.).

HOW TO EXPECT THE BEST WHEN FACING A GIANT

What Goliath, or kind of Goliath have you faced, or are you facing? (Todd mentioned financial, medical, relational Goliaths – others?)

1. TUNE IN TO GOD EVERY MORNING

Focuses on Psalms 5:3

a) go to bed early b) don't begin with the news c) start with worship

Discuss the above suggestions for starting your day.

Recall some of the suggestions Todd gave for beginning your day with worship (he mentioned music, reading the Bible or a devotional).

What have been some spiritual disciplines/exercises that you have found helpful or have had success in maintaining in your life?

2. THINK ON GOD'S PROMISES THROUGHOUT THE DAY

Focuses on Psalms 119:95, Philippians 4:8, Hebrews 10:23

Recall the verses we copied down in the beginning exercise to help us with this point. Perhaps challenge everyone to be ready to recite their verse next week.

What are some strategies you have used to keep God's Word in front of you in daily life? (pictures, posters, post-its, notes, wallpaper on your smartphone screen?)

3. TRUST IN GOD'S LOVE WHEN THINGS LOOK BAD

Focuses on Psalms 42:11, Hebrews 12:10

Todd encouraged us to remember how God has helped you in the past. What comes to mind when you think about that?

Todd said that when life doesn't make sense it is helpful to say something like this: "I know that God loves me, that He is good and in control, He sees everything that's going on, I know He could change it, I know He wants what is best for me, so I don't have to have an explanation." Discuss this statement – do you find it satisfying/helpful/challenging?

What is the role of suffering in the life of a Christian?

4. TALK WITH OTHER BELIEVERS

Focuses on Psalms 119:63, Psalm 1:1, Hebrews 10:25, 1 Corinthians 15:33

VIP vs. VDP (Very Inspirational People vs. Very Draining People)

Who are the VIPs and VDPs in your life?

Discuss Todd's statement that it is harder to be a Christian now than 20 years ago. Why might that be so?

Read Hebrews 10:25. How have you been encouraged by other believers? How have you tried to be an encourager?
