

Faithfulness: Pathway to Greatness

Part two of the series, "Made for Greatness: After God's Heart"

Sunday, October 9, 2022 | Pastor Norman Nakanishi

"But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, ²⁸even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'" (Matthew 20:25-28 ESV)

"And David said to Saul, 'Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.'³³And Saul said to David, 'You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth.'³⁴But David said to Saul, 'Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. ³⁶Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.'³⁷And David said, 'The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.' And Saul said to David, 'Go, and the LORD be with you!'" (1 Samuel 17:32-37 ESV)

Greatness begins by honoring God through **SERVING** others.

"...Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." (v. 32)

"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?" (Luke 16:10-12 ESV)

Character and intimacy is formed through the test of **OBSCURITY**.

"But David said to Saul, 'Your servant used to keep sheep for his father...'" (v. 34)

Skill is cultivated and confidence is gained by being **FAITHFUL** in the grind.

"...And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. ³⁶Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.'" (v. 34-36)

God is always the **SOURCE** and should always get the credit.

"And David said, 'The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.' And Saul said to David, 'Go, and the LORD be with you!'" (v. 37)