

SESSION 04 David's Core Reality: Identity in Intimacy and Meekness

I. DEFINING IDENTITY – HOW WE DETERMINE OUR VALUE OR SUCCESS

- A. David is the model of the anointed Church that operates in power through worship and intercession that comes from those who walk out lifestyles of radical love and obedience towards Jesus. The foundation of David's ministry was his revelation of the governmental impact of prophetic intercessory worship (Ps. 22:3). This is God's most powerful weapon in shifting government in the spirit and transforming the earth now and in the Millennial Kingdom (Ps. 149:6-9; Rev. 4-5). **This is called the beauty of holiness or the Tabernacle of David.**
- B. Our identity is the way we define ourselves or how we determine our value or measure our success. This is one of the most important issues of life. If established in a biblical way, then we have Holy Spirit power on our hearts even in difficulty. If established wrongly, then our lives are filled with strife even with prosperity. David has a radical different paradigm in the way he established his identity or sense of value or importance and how he measure his success.
- C. Every one asks the main identify questions such as “Who am I? Where am I from? Why am I important What is my worth? What is my destiny?”
- D. What makes our lives meaningful. David's identity was first established related to his relationship to God according two core issues: intimacy with God and meekness before people. Our value or the way we measured our success is an essential issue in our lives. These were strengthened in each of seasons of calling and function.
- E. Some ask, how do we describe receiving God's love or what is the sensation of God's love? When our heart is tenderized or swells with pleasurable feelings and with sense of responsiveness (sweet submission).

II. DAVID: CORE REALITY: SPIRITUAL IDENTITY BASED IN INTIMACY AND MEEKNESS

- A. The primary way in which David saw himself and measured (evaluated) the success of his life was by two core issues: intimacy with God and meekness before people. In other words, first, to establish his primary identity (his sense of value/success) in intimacy with God as being loved by God and in being a lover of God then second, to walk in meekness. David ***felt successful before God (ultimate sense) in context to how much he grew in the anointing of love and meekness.***
- B. **Leadership Lesson:** Our primary identity in life is to be one who is “loved and a lover” therefore, we are successful before God (which is ultimate).
- C. The primary challenge it to see God's as our source and goal not the promotion and those related to it.

These were strengthened in each of seasons of his life. His calling and function flowed from these.

David lived in Bethlehem until he was approximately 17 years old. God’s purpose for him in the “Bethlehem years” was to be established in this. **Leadership Lesson:** Our primary identity in life is to be one who is “loved and a lover” therefore, we are successful before God (which is ultimate). Our primary attitude must be to grow in lowliness of heart (meekness or a servant spirit) as one faithful in small things.

III. DAVID’S PRIMARY IDENTITY: INTIMACY WITH GOD (WHO HE WAS BEFORE GOD)

- A. David’s primary identity (value and success) was established in who he was spiritually or who he was in his intimacy with God. In other words, who he was before God as “one that God loved” then as “one who loved God” in return (overflowed to others). By the anointing of the Spirit, David **felt** the power of being loved by God and of loving (God/others) in return. David’s primary paradigm of success was in being successful before God (which is ultimate success) with the “anointing to love and live in meekness.” This is a radical paradigm for living on earth.

I am my Beloved's, and His desire is toward me. (Song 7:10)

- B. This was the first way in which David saw himself and measured (evaluated) the success of his life. In other words, he **felt successful before God in context to how much he grew in the anointing of love**. Based on this, Jesus told Martha that Mary of Bethany had chosen the best part of life which could not be taken from her (Lk. 10: 38-42). All that is truly of God leads us to grow in receiving more of His love (often this includes feeling its tenderness) or returning it to Him then overflowing in it (love and meekness) towards others. All that is of love lasts forever. This is the only reality that we will bring with us when we stand before God.

- C. Summary: David’s primary identity was in being one who was “**loved** (by God) **and was a lover** (to God/others) **therefore, successful.**” Because David felt the power of being loved and of loving, therefore, he felt successful even when his kingship was threatened.

- D. David’s primary attitude: walk in meekness. David’s primary attitude in each season of his life was to walk in meekness or with a servant spirit whether as a shepherd, armorbearer, fugitive or king. He expressed this in a practical way, by being faithful in the small things (mundane tasks). The only character trait Jesus proclaimed about Himself was His meekness.

Take My yoke...learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart... (Mt. 11:29)

...for I am gentle and humble in heart...(Mt. 11:29, NIV, NAS)

- E. In Bethlehem, even in his youth, David developed a spiritual root system of intimacy with God and meekness before people. This foundation was strengthened in each of the following seasons in his life. Because David felt the power of being loved and of loving therefore, he felt successful and thus has a “clear perspective” even when his kingship was threatened. In promotion, David continued in his primary spiritual identity without being distracted by so many new opportunities and responsibilities in being king. **Leadership Lesson:** We must cultivate the grace to be lowly in heart (humility, meekness or a servant spirit) as we serve diligently in very little (Lk. 19:17) or a few things (Mt. 25:21). We can only do this as we develop our primary spiritual identity as one who is “loved and a lover” therefore, we are ***already profoundly successful before God***. When we “feel successful” because of who we are in the love of God, then we have the foundation and strength to faithfully walk out our assignment before others (in times of honor and dishonor, prosperity and difficulty) without losing our intimacy with God nor our meekness before men. This is a dynamic place of stability and fruitfulness that helps us not waver in prosperity or difficulty. Like David, we must focus on being established in our primary identity and meekness rather than in “our future leadership opportunities.” Also, we must also continue to develop the ‘oil of intimacy’ with Jesus with a servant spirit in seasons of new opportunities, responsibilities, and prominence.

IV. SAMUEL TAUGHT DAVID

- A. Samuel taught David much about how God viewed him and his future calling as king of Israel.
The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander (leader or king) over His people... (1 Sam. 13:14)
- 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." (1 Sam. 15:28)*
- The LORD said to Samuel, "...fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons... 3 invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you." 4 Samuel... invited them (Jesse and sons) to the sacrifice. 6...he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before Him." 7 The LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance (externals: performance, accomplishments, skills, position, training, wealth, fame, opportunities, failure) or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart (movements of the heart: anointing of love)...12 He (Jesse)...brought him (David) in...the LORD said, "Anoint him...!" 13 Samuel...anointed him...the Spirit of the LORD came upon David...(1 Sam. 16:1-7, 12-13)*
- B. David’s perspective (20 years later) when anointed king of Israel shows his spiritual foundations.
David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that He (God) had exalted His (God’s) kingdom FOR THE SAKE OF His (God’s) people Israel. (2 Sam. 5:12)

C. David saw himself in a secondary way he saw himself in light of the earthly assignment that God gave him “as a servant of men.” There are several key distinctions here. We have we a long term earthly assignment which may or not be grand in the eyes of men but it will contribute to our Millennial assignment. We have a current assignment which contributes to our main earthly and Millennial assignment. We can get so focused on a vain imagination about our long term earthly assignment that we fail to walk in meekness and intimacy in the present tense. We need to see who we are before men “as servants” of God and of men (in our earthly assignment) rather than seeing ourselves as having more power and honor than others. This view of our earthly assignment hinders our meekness.

1. David first saw himself (his primary value and success) spiritually as before God, then in a secondary way he saw himself as the one who God made him to be “as before men.” In other words, whether he was a shepherd for his father, or armorbearer for Saul (1 Sam. 16:21) or as a fugitive serving the men in the wilderness or even as king of Israel, David wanted to be in the right place fulfilling that particular divine assignment.
2. David trusted God with the assignment that God gave him in the different seasons of His life. God alone can evaluate where He places us (calling/function). This placement may change dramatically in different seasons of life. Many only will embrace God’s will when it involves high positions that are honored by men. God does not value the role of a king, who rules from a palace more than He does the one who cleans it.

D. God does not see as man sees in terms of position and honor before men.

The foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty...29 that no flesh should glory in His presence....that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD. (1 Cor. 1:25-31)

Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. (Col. 3:22-24)

The love of Christ compels us...15...that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him...16 Therefore...we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. (2 Cor. 5:14-16)

E. Do we have the discernment to esteem low positions as valuable to God and a dynamic parts of God’s will in our lives with significant future implications or do we only esteem high positions?

We...do not cease to pray...to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will (revelation of God’s assignment) in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may have a walk worthy (prepared in character) of the Lord, fully pleasing Him...Col. 1:9-10)

- F. People like David, with a heart after God see in this passage the “command” as the central issue of importance where as others see the “calling to kingship” as the central issue.
The LORD has commanded him to be commander (leader) over His people (1 Sam. 13:14)
- G. We like David, must resist two common temptations in walking out our assignments in the changing seasons of our life. First, we must refuse to seek a position that gives us more honor in the eyes of men regardless whether it is in God’s will. Second, we must not yield to pressure to be in a role that others demand of us, even if it is out of God’s will for that season of our life (Jn. 6:15; Mt. 4:8-10; 2 Sam. 5:1-2).
When Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone. (Jn. 6:15)
- H. Leadership Lesson: Our primary identity in life is to walk in the anointing to love as one who is “loved and is a lover” therefore, who is successful before God. In difficulty, we re-align our hearts (1000 times a day) by confessing, ***“I am loved and a lover, therefore, I am successful.”*** Only then can we receive clarity about our secondary identity that is related to our divine assignment (calling/function or who God made us to be before others). As this changes we continue to trust God that it is wise and valuable to Him, regardless how it is esteemed by man.

V. DAVID’S PRIMARY ATTITUDE: WALK IN MEEKNESS

- A. David’s primary attitude in each season of his life was to walk in meekness (Ps. 37) or with a servant spirit whether as a shepherd, armorbearer, fugitive or king. He expressed this in a practical way, by being faithful in the small things (mundane tasks).
- B. The only character trait Jesus proclaimed about Himself was His meekness.
Take My yoke...learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart... (Mt. 11:29)
...for I am gentle and humble in heart...(Mt. 11:29, NIV, NAS)
- C. On three occasions David was promised to rule Israel during his earthly life (1 Sam. 13:14; 15:28; 16:1-13) yet on five other prophetic occasions David’s rule over Israel in the Millennial Kingdom was referenced (Ezek. 34:23-24; 37:24-25; Isa. 55:3-4; Jer. 30:9; Hos. 3:4-5; then possibly in Am. 9:11-12 and in a double fulfillment in 1 Sam. 13:14). David had more personal prophecies in Scripture about his role in the Millennial Kingdom as a ruler. This reality far surpasses his forty-year reign in Jerusalem during his life.
I will establish one shepherd over them...My servant David. He shall feed them...24 I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; (Ezek. 34:23-24)
David My servant shall be king over them...they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them. 25 Then they shall dwell in the land...where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever. (Ezek. 37:24-25)

- D. God commanded David to be commander first for 40 years, then for Jesus’ 1,000 year reign.
The LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people.... (1 Sam. 13:14)
- E. David was the first “Millennial theologian” in the Scripture. He understood that only the meek enter their complete inheritance (combination of their role in this age and the age to come).
For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. 10 For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; indeed, you will look carefully for his place, but it shall be no more. 11 But the meek shall inherit the earth...(Ps. 37:9-11)
The LORD knows the days of the upright, and their inheritance shall be forever. (Ps. 37:18)
For those blessed by Him shall inherit the earth...those cursed...shall be cut off. (Ps. 37:22)
The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell in it forever. (Ps. 37:29)
Delight yourself in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. 7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way...the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. 8 Cease from anger...do not fret--it only causes harm. (Ps. 37:4-8)
- F. Jesus provided us with an interpretive key to the prophecies in David’s life based on meekness.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (Mt. 5:5)
- G. The core principle for ruling in the Millennial Kingdom is meekness (abandon self in humility).
Peter...said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" 28 So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Mt. 19:27-28)
You are those who have continued with Me in My trials. 29 I bestow upon you a kingdom...30 that you may...sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Lk. 22:28-30)
Well done...you were faithful in a very little, have authority over 10 cities. (Lk. 19:17)
Well done...you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many. (Mt. 25:21)
But many who are first will be last, and the last first. (Mt. 19:30; 20:16)
He who is greatest...let him be as the younger...he who governs as he who serves. (Lk. 22:26)
Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave... (Mt. 20:26-27)

- H. In Bethlehem, David received his initial call to have governmental rule over Israel (double fulfillment in the Millennium). ***God’s goal for David’s entire life*** was to be established in this core reality. As he was rooted and grounded in these for 70 years, it would impact his function when Jesus returns to rule the earth. Even in his youth, David developed a spiritual root system of intimacy with God and meekness before people. This foundation was strengthened in each of the following seasons in his life. ***Because David felt the power of being loved and of loving therefore, he felt successful and thus has a “clear perspective” even when his kingship was threatened.*** In promotion, David continued in his primary spiritual identity without being distracted by so many new opportunities and responsibilities in being king.
- I. **Leadership Lesson:** We must cultivate the grace to be lowly in heart (humility, meekness or a servant spirit) as we serve diligently in very little (Lk. 19:17) or a few things (Mt. 25:21). We can only do this as we develop our primary spiritual identity as one who is “loved and a lover” therefore, we are ***already profoundly successful before God***. When we “feel successful” because of who we are in the love of God, then we have the foundation and strength to faithfully walk out our assignment before others (in times of honor and dishonor, prosperity and difficulty) without losing our intimacy with God nor our meekness before men. This is a dynamic place of stability and fruitfulness that helps us not waver in prosperity or difficulty. Like David, we must focus on being established in our primary identity and meekness rather than in “our future leadership opportunities.” Also, we must also continue to develop the ‘oil of intimacy’ with Jesus with a servant spirit in seasons of new opportunities, responsibilities, and prominence.

VI. GOD’S TRAINING STRATEGY FOR DAVID PRODUCED INTIMACY AND MEEKNESS

- A. David knew God put him in place thus he had no strife to keep his role and he knew why God did it. It was not for David’s sake, but for Israel’s sake.
- David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that He (God) had exalted His (God’s) kingdom for the sake of His (God’s) people Israel. (2 Sam. 5:12)***
- B. The success of God’s training of David is seen in him maintaining his spiritual identity as being loved and a lover of God as a ***passionate worshipper*** (Ps 27:4; 18:1; 31:23; 36:8; 145:5) and wonder (Ps. 19; 36; 145). David was always first and foremost a worshipper even as king.
- One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD....(Ps. 27:4)***
- LORD, remember David....2 How he swore to the LORD, and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob: 3 Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, or go up to the comfort of my bed; 4 I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, 5 UNTIL I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob. (Ps. 132:1-5)***
- The LORD said to my (Solomon) father David, Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well in that it was in your heart. (2 Chr. 6:8)***

- C. David’s spiritual identity remained fixed on being loved and a lover of God as he saw himself as raised up, anointed and as a worshiper. This is David’s confession, much like John’s in Jn. 21:20.
These are the last words of David. Thus says David the son of Jesse; Thus says the man raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel... (2 Sam. 23:1)
- D. David finished his course in the same spirit that he started it, yet with much more maturity. God evaluated David in the same way, ***before and after his life*** was over (1,000 years later in Acts 13). Even in his weakness, he was esteemed by God as "one who did all of God's will."
He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David...a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.' (Acts 13:22)
David after he had served the PURPOSE OF GOD in his own generation, fell asleep...(NAS)