



MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP PODCAST

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2. Kingdom Leadership Tests

A 6 week series tracing the leadership tests that David needed to pass before becoming king.

Series based on Dudley Daniels book '*Building an Apostolic Culture*'. Available as a free download from the Books section of the NCMI app or website - *Section 2: From Bethlehem to the Temple*

Adullam, Faithful in Discouragement

1 Samuel 22:1-2 (NIV)

1 David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there. 2 All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their commander. About four hundred men were with him.

Dudley Daniel: "This next stage is seen in David's life when he was in the cave of Adullam. It is simply being faithful in discouraging times. After we have passed the test of faithfulness in obscurity, where no one notices us, we come to the test of being faithful even when what is happening around us is discouraging."

Think about the life of David

- He was anointed to be king - to live in a palace and lead an army
- Now he was living in the desert on the run from the army!
- David probably wanted to hide away alone - instead he had others more desperate than himself come and join him!

Would David be faithful in these discouraging times?

"Adullam means "justice." There are times when everything around you seems so unjust, so unfair. You have done your best for God, you have done your best for your husband or wife, you have done your best for your children, you have done your best for your parents, and they still find fault with you. It seems so unjust"

"But David knew what the purpose of God was for his life. He was to be a king, and in order to be king you have to train your soldiers. You have to teach them to fight. So that is what he did. In the midst of the discouragement he turned that motley group of four hundred discontented, in debt, discouraged people into a fighting machine. That was the call of God on his life. He was faithful even in discouraging times."

BIG IDEA: We have to be motivated by obedience more than results!

- Noah was called to preach while he built the Ark
- For 100 years he preached repentance and yet no one repented!
- If anyone had a reason for discouragement it would have been Noah
- Yet he accomplished what God had called him to do
- Don't focus on the results - focus on what God has called you to do!

CHALLENGE:

1. Change your perspective on discouragement

“You may be discouraged now, or you may periodically battle with this. If so, pass the test, because if you do not, you are only going to be discouraged again within a few days or a few weeks time, again and again. If it has become a life pattern, a life cycle, then break it! Determine to get through it the next time, to be faithful. Go back to what God has called you to do and determine to be faithful, no matter how discouraging it gets.”

Personal: Went through this test about 15 years ago

- On the edge of depression
- Prophetic word given to me about not getting sucked into introspection but to focus on God in worship
- God challenged me with the word to Joshua in Josh 1:9 *"do not be discouraged"*
- It is a command that demands obedience

2. We need a theology that can cope with hardship and suffering

Acts 14:22 (NIV)
22 [Paul & Barnabas] strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.

Be careful that we have not embraced a theology that states that when we come to Jesus He makes our life easier!

- That’s not the Word of God
- Hardships and suffering are a normal part of life
- And God uses them to test our faithfulness

David passed the test and trained a group of desperate and discouraged people into a mighty army and so was promoted to the next stage.

QUESTIONS:

1. Are you in the midst of a discouragement test right now?
2. Instead of looking at the injustice or results, what has God called you to do? Are you being faithful?