



KINGDOM VISION

The Single-Eyed Believer (cont'd)
VOLUNTEERING AND WORKING
IN YOUR FATHER'S FIELD
PART 16

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“And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.” (Habakkuk 2:2-3 KJV)

VOLUNTEERING AND WORKING IN YOUR FATHER'S FIELD

“These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.” (Genesis 37:2 KJV)

The father's vineyard is the breeding place of vision and purpose; if you don't start there, you have already missed the best starting point. Joseph has been our case study in this series and we understand that he began his early adulthood working in his father's house as he fed the flock with his brethren. My goal in this episode is to show us—using Joseph's story—the blueprint God uses in making giants out of us. I should also establish that we can not box God into a corner; He is supreme and can use any method of His choice to do anything at any time.

It has been established that if one can see two or three examples of a particular methodology, one could conclude that such methodology is a system. In the scriptures, likewise, if an idea could be established from two or three reference passages, such can be regarded as a truth. To this end, I will attempt to show us a couple of great Bible characters who discovered their life purpose and vision by working on their father's order.

Let's start with David, a man after God's heart who did so much in the scripture. When Saul, the king of Israel, was rejected by God, there was no one in line to succeed him from his immediate family. God, however, will never lack men. In fact, anytime we are called to serve, we must see it as a privilege and serve with all humility. When the situation with King Saul happened, God turned to one father's field to find Himself a man after His heart to succeed Saul. Here's the narrative in 1 Samuel 16:11-12,

*“And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.”
(1 Samuel 16:11-12)*

It is obvious from the story that Jesse had many children, moreso from the question that Samuel asked: **“Are here all thy children?”** Jesse answered and said there remains yet the youngest. Likewise in Joseph's family, there were eleven other sons in the family. I don't know the criteria God used when He makes the selection of who He chooses to lead, but one thing remains a constant in both narratives, both David and Joseph were serving their father with contentment. In Joseph's story, we read that he always reported his brothers' waywardness to his father. One could infer the same in the case of David, judging by the way his brothers treated him when he visited them on the war front. In other words, both Joseph's and David's stories teach us that it is not enough to serve in our Father's vineyard; we have to do so FAITHFULLY.

In David's case, the scripture was very silent about the future of his brothers, probably because they did not make any meaningful contributions worthy of being mentioned. In contrast, David was anointed a king over the entire nation because he had been faithful in serving His father. In his own testimony to King Saul, he alludes to this prior to receiving a life-changing and destiny-altering vision. Here's how the writer of 1 Samuel puts it:

“And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: and I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.” (1 Samuel 17:34-36)

David reported how he kept his father's sheep from wild animals including a lion and a bear—both of which, at different times, took a lamb from the flock. In both cases, David went after the beast, rescued the lamb and killed the animal. There is something else fascinating about this testimony; when David narrated the experience to Saul, he used a human pronoun for the animals. He said, *“I went out after him, and smote him . . .”* While we would normally refer to an animal with an 'it', David changed that classification to a 'him.' His usage of pronouns seems to imply to us prophetically that while we may not face physical 'lions' and 'bears' in our own situations, there are human elements we will have to deal with on our way to fulfilling our purpose—elements that have the traits and characteristics of such wild beasts as lions and bears! So because David had fought his 'lion' and 'bear' in the secret place, he could fight the humanized version of that challenge in the person of GOLIATH at the battlefield.

The interesting part is that the training we need for the future is not going to be gotten on the battlefield but at our 'father's vineyard.' His training while working in the open field for his father brought David to the palace. And even though he was anointed the king to take over from Saul, he would have to stay within the royal atmosphere for further training before he would be ready to take over the throne. The reason most people fail and find it difficult to attain the full manifestation of their purpose is a lack of training and patience—two things David and Joseph seemed to model perfectly well. Let us learn from them.

CALL TO ACTION

- Are you serving in the father's field?
- Are you serving faithfully?
- Are you going through your training?
- Are you patient?
- Do you have the strength to fight your 'lion' and 'bear'?
- Are you fighting your Goliath now?
- Are you in the palace for your further training?

PONDER ON THIS: “LET PATIENCE HAVE HER PERFECT WORK”

“But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” (James 1:4 KJV)

The goal is to be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. This is God's desired final destination for you and I. May we get there. Shalom.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Father, give me the grace to be faithful as I serve in Your appointed 'vineyard' for this season of my life in Jesus' name.
 2. Lord, enable me to be more patient in the name of Jesus.
- PS: Reach out or pray for ten souls to be added to the Kingdom in your area. God bless you as you do so.