

# First Baptist Church Smiths Falls

August 26, 2018

**Scripture Reading:** 1 Samuel 17:32-37

32 David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." 33 Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth." 34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 37 The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you."

**Prayer of Illumination:** Congregational Prayer: "Our Father" Our Father, Which Art In Heaven, Hallowed Be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom Come. Thy Will Be Done, On Earth As It Is In Heaven. Give Us This Day, Our Daily Bread, And Forgive Us Our Trespasses, As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us. And Lead Us Not Into Temptation, But Deliver Us From Evil. For Thine Is The Kingdom, The Power And The Glory. Forever And Ever. Amen

**Message:** "David, The Shepherd King" - A Dramatic Monologue - DAVID, THE SHEPHERD KING (by Calvin Metcalf, from "Voices From the Bible" based on 1 Samuel 16:10-13, Psalm 23

(DAVID enters reciting the 23rd Psalm.) *"The Lord is my*

*Shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, he leadeth me beside the still waters; he restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.*

*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."* (Short pause; addresses audience.) Perhaps you think that as a young man I composed this poem while I sat among my father's sheep. But no, it was in my later years when I grew to see how God had been more than adequate in all the trying circumstances of my life. He had designed all my recoveries. The Lord was and always shall be the author of all my blessings.

There was no doubting the fact that He was the Shepherd of my life. As an older man, I understand this truth from the perspective

of all my years. God's hand had been upon me all the way. The excitement of that fact brought comfort to my declining days. God's guidance inspired every part of my being as I wrote this hymn of personal praise and worship, My poem, which you now call the 23rd Psalm, caused me to remember my life, in which God was peacefully watching over me, leading me.

(Pauses to collect thoughts; speaks enthusiastically.) I never will forget the day Samuel visited our home. I was but a lad with the chore of keeping the sheep. I enjoyed being a shepherd, and I was rather good at it. I felt that I understood sheep, and they understood me.

You know, sheep are a lot like people. They worry and fret. They frolic and play. They balk and rebel. What a challenge! Everybody ought to be a shepherd at least once in life.

It was during a resting period when my father's servant came requesting that I return home for an audience with the prophet Samuel.

(Fondly) He was a grand old man. The spirit of God was upon him mightily. I felt as though I was talking to God Himself. At the time, I didn't grasp all that Samuel was saying. He talked about the sins of King Saul and how God was not going to let him rule much longer. He told me that one day I would replace King Saul as ruler of Israel.

Although I respected Samuel, I certainly did not conceive of myself as being the king of Israel, to be honest with you, at that stage in my life. (With a sense of wonder) And while I did not fully comprehend the meaning of those moments, I was never the same again. It was like a conversion! When Samuel laid his hands on me and anointed me with oil something like the power of God poured into every part of my being. From that day forth, I was a different man, The Lord had anointed my head with oil, and my cup was running over!

(Excitedly) The next few years of my life were filled drama, danger and difficulty. Although I had received the anointing of

God, there was no indication that life was going to be easy. The greatest tests of my life followed the call of God. Isn't it strange how God calls and then proceeds to push our faith and stamina to the breaking point?

(Recalls with sadness.) It was a sad and gloomy day when I took supplies to my soldier brothers in the valley of Elah. Not only were the Philistines a formidable foe, but they had a giant named Goliath. He proposed that someone from Israel face him in a one-on-one conflict. The winner would determine the outcome of the battle between the two nations. And my nation was in fear.

Now, no one from Israel was a match for Goliath's great strength. There was a stand-off. What could Israel do?

(With growing excitement) When I heard about it, I had this strange urge to accept the giant's challenge. After all, I had encountered bears and lions in my role as a shepherd. Perhaps I could do as well with this overgrown Philistine! Everyone, especially my brothers, discouraged my ridiculous offer to fight

Goliath. In fact, even I didn't cherish the idea of facing that monster of a man!

(With confidence and pride) However, the spirit of God was urging me to accept the assignment. Yea, though I walked through that valley of the shadow of possible death, I did not fear because God was with me. By the grace of God I was able to claim victory over Goliath and the Philistines in the name of the Lord God of Israel!

(Seriously again) But did you know that Goliath was but a symbol of the giants I would soon face in the coming years of my manhood.

King Saul, who had elevated me to prominence in his court, turned against me. On one occasion, he actually tried to kill me! Had it not been for Saul's own son, Jonathan, I would not have escaped Saul's evil conspiracy to have me killed. Because of Saul's sinister plans, I was compelled to live for years as an outlaw. Every day I feared for my life as I was pursued like a

common criminal.

However, some positive things did come from those turbulent days. I was able to organize an effective fighting force of several hundred men. I became close friends of my people in Israel. I grew through every obstacle to see that God was preparing me to be the king of Israel. In every danger I faced, it seemed as though the Lord prepared a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

Although I had suffered much at the hand of Saul, it was not a happy day when I learned of his death. Even in his madness, Saul was still God's anointed king.

Then the Lord led me to Hebron, where I was made king over the house of Judah. Over seven years I ruled in Judah until there was peace and I was asked to be king over all of Israel.

(Proudly, but not boastfully) The Lord was with me, and I established the holy city of Jerusalem as the capital. My armies defeated our enemies and stretched our boundaries in all

directions. From all over the world we brought precious materials to build the palaces of Jerusalem. The Lord God Jehovah had made us one of the strongest nation on earth! Our power and wealth seemed to be unlimited! Goodness and mercy were following me all the days of my life.

(With regret) And yet my success and prosperity had a damaging effect upon my ego. As a proud king, I felt I could do as I pleased and get what I wanted. And so in lust one day I coveted another man's wife and proceeded in a murderous plan to get what I wanted. (Mocking himself) After all, I was the king! Who could deny The Great King David? But I soon learned that life was not designed that way, not even for kings.

(Shame makes speaking difficult.) It was a painful day when Nathan came to me with his parable of accusation. The words of Nathan, "Thou are the man," cut a clear, clean path to the core of my being. With remorse I admitted my error to Nathan. In my secret place of prayer, I cried unto the Lord: (Falls to knees and

prays fervently.) *"Have mercy on me, God, according to thy loving kindness. According to thy great compassion, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against thee and thee only have I sinned and done this evil in thy sight. Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean. Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow."* (Tearfully; with deep emotion) *"Make me to hear joy and gladness. Let the bones which thou hast broken rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from thy presence, And do not take thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of thy salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit."*

(Regains composure; rises slowly, speaks with wonder and gratitude.) You know, the Lord forgave my sin! He removed the burden of my guilt, and I praise Him! I praise Him! *"There is a balm in Gilead, a healing fountain."* *"How blessed is he whose*

*transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! How blessed is the person to whom the Lord does not charge iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit!"* Surely, surely He restored my soul and led me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

(With deepening sadness) And while my sins were forgiven, the strains of my transgressions marred my life for years to come. I loved my family dearly, but they did not love one another. They remained stuck in the land of disobedience.

(Sadly) Many times during those turbulent days I wanted to escape. I longed for the wings of a dove so I might fly away and be at rest. Deep down, however, I knew life was not made for flight but for facing each challenge with courage and composure. After all, the Lord is and always was my Shepherd. He was making me to lie down in green pastures and leading me beside still waters. (Joyfully) Hallelujah, what a Shepherd! I commend Him to you today.

(Moves closer to audience, speaks solemnly.) Looking down the

corridors of time, I see my Shepherd again, the Messiah of God, Jesus Christ, God's only Son. By word and deed, He revealed He was the good Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep.

Today, He is the door to your very life, to your soul. He wants to let you in. Will you seek Him? Will you commit yourself to this Shepherd, this Christ of God? Will you come to Him? If you will come today, you can say with me: *“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want....* (He exits, again reciting the 23rd Psalm).