

## **Sermon Title: "In the Meantime"**

**October 12, 2021**

**Biblical Passage: 1 Samuel 16:10-13, 2 Samuel 7:8-16**

### **Passage Background and Summary**

The scripture passage for today deals with David being anointed as king. In the scriptures leading up to the focal text, the Lord sends Samuel to Jesse to anoint the new king as the Lord has rejected Saul. When Samuel arrives, Jesse shows him his oldest seven sons; however, none of them have been chosen by God. Samuel has Jesse send for the youngest, David, and the Lord says, "Rise and anoint him, he is the one." Samuel anoints David as king, and the spirit of the Lord falls upon him. In 2 Samuel, we see the covenant that God makes with David as king. In the covenant, God talks about drawing him from the pasture. God will make "a great name" of David. God will appoint a place for the people of Israel, and God will give David rest. David's offspring will build a house for God, and it is through him that the kingdom will be established forever. God will be like a father to David's son and David and his house and kingdom will be "made sure forever" before God.

### **Sermon Points**

There's something about greatness that inspires the soul and intrigues the mind. It is something to be in the presence of greatness. It is wonderful but dangerous because we can get so caught up in others' achievements that we forget that great ones are mere mortals like us. God uses mere mortals and broken people as instruments of healing for God's perfect will. In the scripture, we see how God uses a mere shepherd boy who becomes known as a musician who plays the harp and writes music, as the soldier who defeated Goliath, and as the political who built an empire. Despite his sin and shortcomings and obvious brokenness, God chose David. God can look beyond our faults and see our needs and through our pain and see our possibilities.

We have to look at the process. David wasn't always a king. God rejected the old king, and they needed a new king. God had Samuel go out to find the king among Jesse's sons, and David wasn't presented. David was working in the pasture, in the sheep manure. Yet, there is a God who can find you, even in a messy situation and call you to do more than you could imagine. They went through all the older brothers then summoned David and anointed him as king. God anointed him king, but then he went back to the pasture. If you think God has forgotten about you, you're in your pasture time. You have to go through the pasture to get to the palace.

God has a way of pulling people out of the mess, out of the pasture, and using them for God's will. Pastor Warnock shared about the student who became his mentee among the 40 second graders that Ebenezer and St. Luke's Episcopal adopted from the Bowen Homes housing

projects years ago. He started in the housing projects but remained focused and disciplined. Bobby went on and finished high school. Finished at Tuskegee University, graduated from Vanderbilt Law School, and was recently married. This week, he started working at one of the most important law firms in Georgia. There's no secret what God can do when we stay in the pasture and stick with the process. Pastor Warnock has a similar story. Pastor Warnock struggled to make a way for himself in college. One year, his clothes were stolen, and he barely made it through the winter. So, when we see him arguing on the floor of the Senate or standing in the pulpit, don't get caught up in the product but know the process. There is a God who will take you out of the pasture and your mess and lift you up in high places so you can lift up others. To return to the scripture, David was so great that when God got ready to lift up humanity, a child was born in the city of David who was known as the Son of David. Thank God for David but thank God for the Son of David - Jesus.

### **Reflection Questions**

1. Think of someone that you admire for being great? Why do you admire them? Do you know what their process was?
2. Have you ever been in the pasture or are you in the pasture now? What is/was the process to get you out of the pasture and into your "palace"?
3. Have you ever been overlooked or underestimated? If so, in what way?
4. What is learned in the struggle as Pastor Warnock discusses it?
5. What is the palace or role God is calling you to?
6. Are there any other messages that you can take away from the story of David?