

Chapter 13

HIS TRAINING FIELD

Psalm 78: 70

***"He also chose David His servant'
and took him from the sheepfolds"***

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David was in the 'backwoods' as it were, in the lonely task of shepherding. He was in isolation, braving all weathers and all situations and was faithful in the task entrusted to him. He was watchful and diligent, at the risk of his own life, to protect the sheep from predators and care for them well in every need. He gave his best to the task at hand, whilst keeping his thoughts focused on God. In praise and thankfulness David did his work unto the Lord.

We too, can be His servants anywhere: in the home, the field, the factory, the office. As was once quoted to me "we are to bloom where we are planted."

In Colossians 3:17 (Amplified), we read;

"And whatever you do, no matter what it is, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, and in dependence upon His Person, giving praise to God the Father through Him."

The words '*no matter what*' convey the thought that God uses varied and seemingly unlikely training fields. David's training took place while he was shepherding sheep. The sheepfold was a place of protection for the sheep, to keep them from wandering and getting lost. It was there that God moulded him, bringing constant growth in faith; it was there that David proved faithful in what God had called him to, and learned to know, trust and love God.

Wherever God's training field is for us, it is the training field of His choice and it is right there that He will teach and train us.

"From following the ewes that had young, He brought him (David) to shepherd Jacob His people Israel, His inheritance."

(Psalm 78:71, Amplified)

What an amazing result followed from David responding with a servant heart to the sheepfold training! There he learned to watch over, protect and lead sheep prior to being given the task of shepherding the people of Israel. we see God's ultimate plan being worked out step by step - shepherd to King of Israel!

God looks for faithfulness right where we are and He will take us forward in His purposes. A wonderful statement about David is found in Acts 13:36. it says of him:

" For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God , fell asleep..." In other words, he died.

In daily awareness of and fellowship with God, faith and faithfulness grew and were practiced in his lowly situation as a shepherd boy. No-one else saw - but God did and took him forward into His ultimate purpose. Could anyone of us aspire to anything more than that it could be said that we 'served the purpose of God in our own generation'?

David died when his work was done, The Lord Jesus cried out on the cruel cross, *"It is finished"* (John 19:30). He had completed the work the Father gave Him to do.

In 2 Timothy 4:7. Paul says, *"I have finished the course, I have kept the faith"*

Prayer:

Father: by Your encouragement, strength and guidance through the Lord Jesus Christ , may I be obedient and serve Your purpose in my generation.

