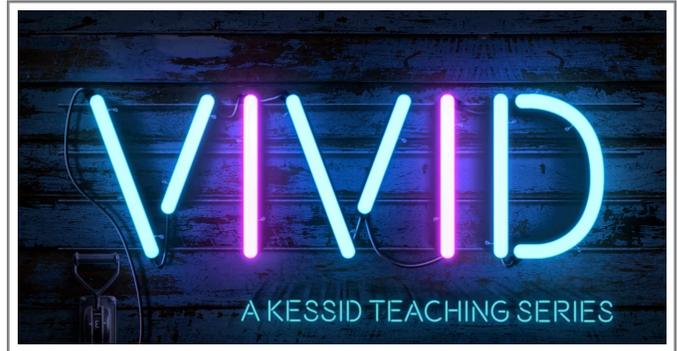


"MOTHER'S DAY: SOUTH STAR"

Date: May 9, 2021

Speaker: Jenn Adamson



Happy Mother's Day to everyone in attendance and online.

- My goal this morning, is that all mothers would feel seen today.
- Whatever phase of motherhood you find yourself in right now; the waiting, the expecting, the toddler chaos, the middle school moods, the high school challenges, the empty nesters, those dealing with loss... wherever, I hope you would truly feel seen and appreciated today.

There was a life changing moment for me a few years ago that has changed my conversations about motherhood with women and what this time might mean for others...

- I had a co worker who had been with us for many years and after I got pregnant with Hunter, I began to ask her when she was going to follow.
- Her answers were often laughed off with quick responses of how she had just wanted to enjoy marriage first. After I had Knox, I continued to engage in these conversations, albeit the purest of intentions, yet ignorance to what could be going on behind the scenes.
- 2.5 years into these conversations, she very excitedly told me she was 15 weeks pregnant with their first and how they had been trying for the past 2+ years.
- Suddenly, like a highlight reel, all the conversations I had with her came rushing to mind and the weight of what she must felt having to give reason to her struggles came crashing down on me. I felt truly pitted...
 - How must she have felt bringing each newborn in the office to meet her?
 - How must she have felt, listening to me complain about every pregnancy issue that came about that seems so trivial in comparison?
- We had a good open talk and I was so thankful for the grace she extended to me and the lessons she taught me that day about my perception of motherhood and how vastly different it is for everyone. I think about her every Mother's Day and all the moms in waiting for their miracles.
- I think about my high school friend who lost her mom at the beginning of this year and how this will be her first Mother's Day without her. I think about the moms with rough relationships with their high schoolers, who are grieving the days where they had to answer all the "whys." And the moms in the midst of the toddler chaos who deserve a breather today, but most likely won't get one, well, because... motherhood calls.

You all deserve to be seen today...

- To be appreciated and to be reminded that today matters. Where you are at in your journey of motherhood matters.
- We are in the middle of this series, VIVID, about being truly seen and last week, Danny talked about this idea of the North Star – how it's not enough to just say we know where we are going and who we are following, but that we have to be willing to put in the work. And today, I get to talk to you about your South Star and this idea that...

All of Where We are Matters

- ...which is going to require you to start doing some of that work; to acknowledge where you've been and where you are, and that all of it matters.

Today we are going to dig into the early story of David, which may seem like an odd basis for a Mother's Day talk.

- But, I'm hoping that you'll take the journey with me this morning and see where you might fit in this story. You see, scripture is best read (in my opinion) by putting yourself in the story, identifying the best you can with the culture, the content, and the character.
- When I met with Danny about what I was going to talk about this weekend, he seemed intrigued that I un-reluctantly put myself in the story from a woman's perspective.
- To be honest, having done this most my life, and since a majority of the stories in the Bible are male derived, I haven't ever thought twice about it.

(Vs) 2 Timothy 3:16 – "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."

- So, to the men in the room: this might be Mother's Day, and I might be directing a lot to the moms here, but if you'd allow it, I believe there is something inside what the Holy Spirit wants us to unpack this morning that is good for you too.
- David is really the South Star in scripture – He is the beginning of the lineage of Christ. His story mattered. The decisions he made in each phase of his life mattered. His attitude mattered. What he allowed himself to be clothed in mattered. Let's dig into that a little bit.
- The context of David, before we pick up into the part of the story I want to read with you this morning, is that David is the youngest of 8. (Talk about being in motherhood!). He was a Shepard boy from Bethlehem. At the time of his youth, Saul was anointed King. Years later, when Saul disobeyed God, Samuel, a prophet, was sent out by God to choose someone else. He was sent to Jesse, David's father, to choose one of his sons to be king. Samuel thought that he would know which son God had chosen by their appearance, but we read...

(Vs) 1 Samuel 16:7 – "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

- When Samuel laid eyes on David, he knew he was the one God had chosen, and in verse 13, we read that he is anointed, in the presence of his brothers, and from that day forward the spirit of the Lord came heavily upon him.

AND THEN THE STORY DOES SOMEWHAT OF A FASTFORWARD...

- David wasn't doing anything special to be seen other than being faithful with where God was putting him in, in the moment. Could you imagine David in that moment, in the midst of his 7 OLDER brothers, being chosen king and then Samuel leaving and getting ready for bed, heading out to shepherd the next day? Its kind of like driving away from the hospital with your newborn in your backseat. Your life has drastically changed, yet life still needs attending to. David had just inherited kingdomship, yet he headed out to the field the next morning.
- You see... **"The Bible tells us that David was a king after God's own heart, and I believe that was formed in the fields."**

David had this future of kingdomship, but he knew that what he did on the journey there mattered.

- The story continues, that God's spirit departed from Saul and an evil spirit begin to torment him. He was pleading for any kind of relief when one of his servants brought forth David who played the harp and could possibly bring him comfort. Saul liked him so much he made him part of his armor bearers. Again, can you imagine David in this moment? He was serving the king whose spot he was destined to take, yet he was trusting in the process. trusting that where he was at in the moment, although already anointed king, was where he was supposed to serve and serve well.
- Then we get to our main story today, one you probably heard in children's church, the story of David and Goliath. While we all know, spoiler alert, David ends up killing Goliath, I believe that God has something special for us in the room and online today in the moments that led to that.
- We read in chapter 17 that three of David's older brothers followed Saul into the war against the Philistines and one morning, Jesse (David's father) sent him to the campsite where his brothers were with some provisions. He met up with his brothers on the battle lines and as he was asking how they were, we pick up on verse 23.

(Vs) 1 Samuel 16:23 – As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, came out from the Philistine ranks. Then David heard him shout his usual taunt to the army of Israel. ²⁴ As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright. ²⁵ "Have you seen the giant?" the men asked. "He comes out each day to defy Israel. The king has offered a huge reward to anyone who kills him. He will give that man one of his daughters for a wife, and the man's entire family will be exempted from paying taxes!" ²⁶ David asked the soldiers standing nearby, "What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his defiance of Israel? Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?" ²⁷ And these men gave David the same reply. They said, "Yes, that is the reward for killing him." ²⁸ But when David's oldest brother, Eliab, heard David talking to the men, he was angry. "What are you doing around here anyway?" he demanded. "What about those few sheep you're supposed to be taking care of? I know about your pride and deceit. You just want to see the battle!" ²⁹ "What have I done now?" David replied. "I was only asking a question!" ³⁰ He walked over to some others and asked them the same thing and received the same answer. ³¹ Then David's question was reported to King Saul, and the king sent for him.

What they were calling out as pride was a fulfillment of David's purpose.

- How David responded in that moment mattered. He didn't allow his brothers to label his trusting of the process as pride and he persisted. How many times as mothers do we allow those labels to be worn as unwanted sashes throughout our days?
- Sometimes it's so subtle we don't even realize we are wearing them. We wake up in the morning, open our Instagrams, and are immediately flooded with picture perfect portraits of perfectly portioned breakfast plates with smiling children at a perfectly themed table while the super fit mom of three makes freshly squeezed orange juice for her well-behaved children after completing her 45-minute peloton class just moments prior.
- Shoot, I'm lucky if my kids don't chuck their granola bar back at me because, God-forbid, today I should have known that they absolutely do not like chocolate chip anymore and will only eat chocolate brownie. The failure-sash drops like clock-work from the ceiling and I continue about my day.
- This continues as I see moms in the grocery store all dressed up and put together, while I adjust my top knot and pull up my yoga pants from the yoga class I've never been too. The sash of "comparison" falls ever so gracefully around my shoulders.
- And then we get to lunch time where I've just entered WWII because I absurdly gave my daughter the green plate when I know her food just doesn't taste as good unless its on her pink plate and "Duh!" How could I forget that green is my sons favorite color and therefore until further notice all green everything must go to him and him alone. The plate crisis of 2021 gets resolved and winded I find a moment of silence, flip on the TV and see a mom serving her kids lunch with all the major food groups and plated like a scene out of Top Chef. I take a quick glance back at my kids plate full of yesterday's reheated mac and cheese and chips and feel immediately guilty that I could be doing more, and the sash falls like clockwork.
- At this point in the day, I'm unconsciously tangled in judgment as I try to go about my day, keeping my kids alive and trying to find fun in the midst. I break up fight number 7 between the boys, count to 3 for the 33rd time, and continue to look for the world's smallest figurine that my daughter has deemed her absolute must have item before taking a nap. And the day continues, and I find myself at the end of the day getting ready for bed weighted down by judgment, disappointment and whatever other sash stack itself upon me during the day.

I'm defeated. Can you relate? Have you been there?

- You see, what I missed earlier that morning was the early morning snuggles with my daughter that followed the granola bar to my head. I missed the jokes with my son over breakfast because I was too busy adjusting my sash of failure. I missed my daughter making conversations with every stranger at the grocery store because I was in too big of a hurry to not run into anyone in my early morning attire of comparison & shame. I missed hearing about my son's day at preschool at lunch and the award he got for being a good helper, because I was too wrapped up in my disappointment. I missed the game of Uno with my oldest while the other two were napping because I was defeated and weighed down by everything I had let label me.

David could have missed out on his giant killing moment had he taken the label from his brothers and returned home. Yet he was trusting where he was at in the moment.

His purpose outweighed how others perceived him.

- We continue to read in vs 32. where he meets up with Saul:

(Vs) 1 Samuel 16:32-37 – ³² “Don’t worry about this Philistine,” David told Saul. “I’ll go fight him!”³³ “Don’t be ridiculous!” Saul replied. “There’s no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You’re only a boy, and he’s been a man of war since his youth.”³⁴ But David persisted. “I have been taking care of my father’s sheep and goats,” he said. “When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. ³⁶ I have done this to both lions and bears, and I’ll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! ³⁷ The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!”

What David did in the field prepared him for the battle.

- All of those nights he probably dreaded watching over the sheep due to the battle with the lion the night before, was only prepping him for a bigger battle. What he had been through mattered and he was now being made aware of it.

- Saul finally consented. “All right, go ahead,” he said. “And may the Lord be with you!”

(Vs) 1 Samuel 16:38-40 – ³⁸ Then Saul gave David his own armor—a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. ³⁹ David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before. “I can’t go in these,” he protested to Saul. “I’m not used to them.” So David took them off again. ⁴⁰ He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd’s bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd’s staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine.

- David had what he needed to without the armor to defeat Goliath.
- In fact, they were all things from his shepherding days that were the catalyst in defeating him. Again, he had a decision to make. Does he walk out with these clothes that don’t fit and fight the giant that he felt he was destined to fight, or does he trust that what he has is enough and what he has been through will propel him through this fight?
- What you are doing in this season of “struggle,” “chaos,” “tragedy,” matters and it will only be used as life saving tools in the next battle you face. You have to be willing to take off that unfit armor first though.
- That armor that was never intended for you and walk out in faith and awareness that you are exactly the mother your children need today. You are the wife your husband deserves. You are the co-worker worth befriending.

You are enough. You are doing enough. You are seen.

- Your journey has a purpose, and you are not forgotten in it. David fought Goliath as the anointed King. David fought Goliath with the “pep talk” of his loving brothers before hand. I’m sure when David was anointed king that day, he didn’t perceive this as the journey to kingdomship. And, maybe you find yourself in that boat today too. Your motherhood journey is not what you had envisioned. The timeline is off, the patience isn’t there, its more exhausting than you thought it would be, but if you would trust the process, see the purpose in the pain and not allow shame and fear to adorn you anymore, maybe the Holy spirit would be louder than the labels. Maybe your journey would feel clearer and more directed, like your South Star only made your North Star shine more bright.

David's life laid the foundation for the birth of Christ. What you are doing right now is laying the foundation for greater things to come.

- I've had a lot of conversations in the middle of this pandemic and everything that's going on in this world about how hard its going to be for our kids and how thankful we are that we didn't have the things they have to deal with in school and in life, and I came across this on FB and thought it was such a good reminder: "Don't feel sorry for or fear for your kids because the world they are going to grow up in is not what it used to be.
- God created them and called them for the exact moment in time that they're in.
- Their life wasn't a coincidence or an accident.
 - Raise them up to know the power they walk in as children of God.
 - Train them up in the authority of His Word. Teach them to walk in faith knowing that God is in control.
 - Empower them to know they can change the world.
 - Don't teach them to be fearful and disheartened by the state of the world but hopeful that they can do something about it.
- Every person in all of history has been placed in the time that they were in because of God's sovereign plan.

"He knew Daniel could handle the lion's den.

He knew David could handle Goliath.

He knew Esther could handle Haman.

He knew Peter could handle persecution.

He knows that your child can handle whatever challenge they face in their life.

He created them specifically for it!

Don't be scared for your children, but be honored that God chose YOU to parent the generation that is facing the biggest challenges of our lifetime.

Rise up to the challenge. Raise Daniels, Davids, Esthers, and Peters! God isn't scratching His head wondering what He's going to do with this mess of a world. He has an army He's raising up to drive back the darkness and make Him known all over the earth. Don't let your fear steal the greatness God placed in them. I know it's hard to imagine them as anything besides our sweet little babies, and we just want to protect them from anything that could ever be hard on them, but they were born for such a time as this."

– Alex Cravens

- Would you start by doing some of the work that Danny had eluded to last week
- Recognizing some of those labels, those sashes you have brought in with you today? Would you ask the Holy Spirit to remove those for you and remind you that all that you are in enough?
- What you have, what HE designed you as, is exactly what is need to do what he's placed you in at this moment.