



DATE July 8, 2018

SPEAKER Nathan Jager

TITLE The High Road

SERIES David is the most written-about character in the Bible. He's most often remembered for all the good in his life, but like us, he had his fair share of failures. What can we learn from all the good, the bad and the ugly woven together in David's story?

In James 1:12 (NIV) we learn that:

“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial because, when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.”

Pastor Nathan described a time when he and his wife were in the wilderness due to a situation at his former church. They questioned whether the ministry was the right path for their lives. God met them in their time of uncertainty and they persevered under this trial. They emerged strong and more confident that church leadership and preaching the gospel was their calling. Praise the Lord!

You too, can find holiness in the wilderness and in everyday situations.

1. What touched you from the two stories that Pastor Nathan shared at the beginning of the sermon?
2. Have you ever been in a situation like David's in I Samuel 24:5-10?
 - a. Did you take the high road rather than the easier low road? Why?
 - b. Which of the three roads do you normally take and why?
 - c. What are the major challenges in taking the high road?
3. What biblical principles was David using to guide him in this passage?
4. Romans 8:28 is tailor made for wilderness experiences. Read this verse and discuss the encouragement found in it.
5. Pastor Nathan stated, "In our wilderness, we can obsess with what got us there or we can obsess with what God is doing in us while we are there." Look back at the Psalms he referenced: Psalms 2:12, 46:1, and 62:7. Discuss how you can obsess about the good God is doing in your own wilderness experiences.
6. Do you agree with Pastor Nathan that wilderness made/built David's character? Or is it his reverence and love for God from his youth while tending his father's sheep that built David's character?
7. It has been said that money does NOT change a person, it only magnifies your true character. Similarly, do you agree that wilderness does NOT change a person but only brings out your true self? Why or why not?
8. Who/what is your refuge in good times and bad? Does it change? If yes, why? How does this affect your everyday life? If no, why?

9. How do you feel when you realize, in hindsight, that you took the low road in a situation?
10. Tell of a time when someone took the low road and how it impacted you. How did you respond? How did learning more about David's interaction with Saul inspire you to indeed take the high road?

11. Robert Frost wrote a poem entitled "The Road not Taken." In the last verse he writes,

"Two roads diverged in a wood,
And I—I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference."

In today's society, which road do you think is the one LESS traveled by? Why?

12. Pastor Nathan asked us to consider, "What would it look like if we all chose to take the high road instead of the low road in our interactions with others?" Take time now to visualize and discuss how things would be different if we did that.

Mother Teresa, a 1979 Nobel Peace Prize winner, once said:

"I know God won't give me anything I can't handle. I just wish he didn't trust me so much."

We all find ourselves in the wilderness from time to time. God inspires us and trusts us to take the high road, even when it is hard to handle.