

January 27, 2019
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
The CROWN: Episode 2
Kings Without A Crown
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

2 Samuel 2:1-7

² After this David inquired of the LORD, “**Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?**” And the LORD said to him, “Go up.” David said, “**To which shall I go up?**” And he said, “To Hebron.” ² So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. ³ And David brought up his men who were with him, everyone with his household, and they lived in the towns of Hebron. ⁴ And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. When they told David, “It was the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul,” ⁵ David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead and said to them, “May you be blessed by the LORD, because you showed this loyalty to Saul your lord and buried him.” ⁶ Now may the LORD show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. And I will do good to you because you have done this thing. ⁷ Now therefore let your hands be strong, and be valiant, for Saul your lord is dead, and the house of Judah has anointed me king over them.”

Lessons From The Crown

1. Never chase your destiny.
2. Seek the right thing.

“Don't aim at success. The more you aim at it and make it a target, the more you are going to miss it. For success, like happiness, cannot be pursued; it must ensue, and it only does so as the unintended side effect of one's personal dedication to a cause greater than oneself or as the by-product of one's surrender to a person other than oneself. —Viktor Frankl

Many exchange knowing God in a desperate search for discerning their purpose.

Psalm 139 (Psalm written at David's Coronation)

¹ LORD, You have searched me and known me. ² You know when I sit down and when I stand up; You understand my thoughts from far away. ³ You observe my travels and my rest; You are aware of all my ways. ⁴ Before a word is on my tongue, You know all about it, LORD. ⁵ You have encircled me; You have placed Your hand on me. ⁶ **This extraordinary knowledge is beyond me. It is lofty; I am unable to reach it.**

- **David understood that God's ways were too lofty for him.**
 - **Proverbs 20:24** A man's steps are from the LORD; how then can man understand his way? English Standard Version
 - **Jeremiah 10:23** I know, LORD, that our lives are not our own. We are not able to plan our own course. New Living Translation
 - **Proverbs 16:9** A man's heart plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps. Berean Study Bible

David was content to be immersed in relationship rather than a life's pursuit of becoming king.— Matthew 6:33 —But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

How then are we to find God's direction for our life?

Vs. 2 After this David inquired of the LORD, **"Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?"** And the LORD said to him, "Go up." David said, "To which shall I go up?" And he said, "To Hebron."

- **The biblical mandate is only to seek, it is the vocation of the Divine to reveal.**
 - **David tilled his life's direction from seeds sown in a seeking heart.**

Understanding God's will is more about posture than steps taken.

Posture 1: Always ask: Matt 7:7-8 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Posture 2: Stay awake: 1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.

Posture 3: Walk in love and never violate your hearts conscience. 1 Timothy 1:5 The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

Posture 4: Trust: Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Food for the journey: Use these questions and challenges to go deeper in personal reflection or in one of our community groups.

1. How often do you think about your personal purpose or the meaning of life? Are you concerned about it?
2. Viktor Frankl said that you can't pursue happiness, rather it must ensue. What does that mean to you?
3. David was more concerned about seeking relationship than a destination. Why is this a good strategy for finding direction?
4. Pastor Adam said that finding direction is more about posture of heart than steps to figure things out. Why would God want it this way?
5. This week, keep a journal of what you ask God about and possible answers he might have given you. This will keep you aware and in the froth and bubble of relationship.