

THE DEFINING MOMENT

I dreamt I was at a huge convention in a formal banquet hall sitting next to my Dad. Thousands of people were there dressed in formal wear. The President of the USA was there and other dignitaries. My father seemed to be one of the organizers. He turned to me and asked me to speak for about fifteen minutes at the beginning of the meeting. I was shocked as there was only ten minutes until we were to go to the convention hall. Music was already playing from there. I opened my notebook and began to jot down ideas. I get nervous, anxious. Suddenly I can't find my notes. Twenty notebooks are in front of me. Which notebook is mine? I begin to panic. Suddenly I remember God is in charge.

"What should I speak on Lord?"

"Speak on The Defining Moment," He replies.

I awakened and began to pray. I ask the Lord for a definition.

A defining moment - 1. A point in time in a person's life when a decision or event separates them from all that has gone before the result of which irrevocably shapes the course of events that follow. (Destiny)

2. The response of conscience to a critical event

There can be a number of defining moments in a person's life. Even in a given year there are times of important decisions that affect our lives. The defining moment of which I speak is the initial decision or event that so turns our lives that we can never go back to the person we were.

Consider the shepherd David. He was the youngest of his brothers. He lived in the fields caring for the sheep. We know he was brave for he killed the Lion and the Bear. We know he played the harp. Neither he, nor his family had any idea that in one day he would have a defining moment that would change his and all Israel's history.

When we think of David we immediately think Goliath. Was his defining moment his battle with Goliath? At first it would seem so. David was a virtual nobody even within his family. He was not ready to be at war for he was kept home with his father. His brothers had no special regard for him. Yet of all the men of Israel he was the one willing to accept Goliath's challenge. David was angry that God's name was being profaned and he was willing to be God's champion. One could say his subsequent victory was the defining moment of his life. It immediately catapulted him to power and fame. It also led to the women singing,
"David killed his ten thousand and Saul his thousands."

This infuriated King Saul.

Was this truly David's great defining moment?

Some would say it was the evil deed he committed in stealing Bathsheba from Uriah the Hittite and having Uriah killed.

I suggest that an earlier event was the moment that changed everything for David. It was the day Samuel came for lunch. God had told Samuel to go to Jesse's home and anoint one of his sons King of Israel. Saul was already King but he had

failed God and God was through with him as his anointed King. Samuel spent the afternoon getting to know Jesse and his sons but could not find the son God wanted him to anoint. Samuel had said to Saul

1 Sam 13:14

The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

NKJV

God had said to Samuel,

1 Sam 16:1-13

Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."

2 And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me."

But the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' 3 Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you."

4 So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

5 And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him!"

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

8 So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 10 Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." 11 And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep."

And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here." 12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

NKJV

Can you see it? The day that Samuel came for lunch was the hour of anointing for David. It was the defining moment when the Spirit of God came upon him. The anointing to be King of Israel was now on him and in him. David would never be the same person again. He was different, separated from his parents, brothers, and in fact all Israel. There was no one else on the whole earth with the Spirit of God on him as it was on David. This point of time shaped all that would follow.

When the Spirit of God came upon David it left Saul. Look what happened
1 Sam 16:14-23

But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him. 15 And Saul's servants said to him, "Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. 16 Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well."

17 So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me."

18 Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him."

19 Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep." 20 And Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by his son David to Saul. 21 So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armor bearer. 22 Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight." 23 And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.

NKJV

David was catapulted into prominence. He was the King's musician. He was the King's exorcist. Very soon He was to be Israel's deliverer.

In this instant David's defining moment was not of his choosing. All that followed would involve his choice. But God first chose him for His purpose. How about you and I. Isn't it possible that our defining moment was when God chose us?

John 15:16-17

16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

NKJV

John 15:19-20

19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

NKJV

Our defining moment like David's is that God chose us. What do we have to boast of?

Gal 6:14-15

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

NKJV

On the day of David's anointing he became a different person. He could never go back to the old. It is even more so of us. We are new creations in Christ. Let us become all that God intends for us.

What about Joseph?

As a boy I remember Claude Rains reading *Joseph and his coat of many colors*. When I think of Joseph I think of his coat. It certainly made his life difficult that his father favored him because his brothers began to dislike him. Joseph was thrown into a pit and sold into slavery. All of these were significant moments in his life. The defining moment of his life I believe was the dreams he received that he subsequently told his family. These dreams foretold what would take place in his life. The telling of these dreams was the last straw for the brothers. They became so angry that the pit followed. Once again God, through dreams, set in motion the events that would follow in Joseph's life.

We associate Noah with the ark. But the building of the ark was not the defining moment, the point in time that influenced all that followed. It was not even the day he received the directions of how to build the ark. Genesis 6:8-10 gives us a clue.

Gen 6:8-10

8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

9 This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations.

Noah walked with God. NKJV

Noah walked with God. Noah was the only man on the earth who built a relationship with the Lord. He was the only man who found favor with God. Somewhere in those walks in that relationship God imparted saving grace to him that he withheld from the rest of mankind.

When I think of Daniel I think of the Lions Den. But that event took place well along in his life. I don't think of Daniel and the vegetables.

Dan 1:8-21

8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. 9 *Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.* 10 And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king."

11 So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, 12 "Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants." 14 So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days.

15 And at the end of ten days their features *appeared better and fatter* in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies. 16 Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

17 As for these four young men, *God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.*

18 Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 Then the king interviewed them, and *among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah;* therefore they served before the king. 20 And *in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.* 21 Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.

NKJV

God had his hand on these young men. He gave them favor. They wished to please Him. Out of their decision to forego the delicacies of the Kings table came the resultant wisdom and prophetic vision that would carry Daniel and his friends through difficult times ahead. This defining moment, like David's, like Noah's, was a time of consecration. Daniel entire life became separated to the Lord God of Israel. Man had made Daniel a Eunuch. God made him a Prophet.

What about your defining moment? Ask God to show you. It becomes a plumb line for the rest of your life and ministry. You can go back to that moment and see if you are still on the beam, still holding fast to the defining moment of your life.

Every time a soul comes to Christ, the anointed one, it is a defining moment for that soul but every person has his or her own destiny. We are all to receive the inheritance of eternal life but not all the same gifting or rewards. In order to stay on track, to see the continuity of God's dealings in my life it is important to remember and follow the destiny prescribed in that original boundary stone in my life.

Consider

The little things that lead to the moment
Staying true to the Anointing we received
My defining moment

What is your defining moment?

What do I do if I have not had a defining moment?

My defining moment is my testimony, boundary stone. It is where God's power begins to be identified in my life.

Connecting the dots between these moments reveals my destiny