

“Sufficient” Sermon for July 8, 2018, 7th in Pentecost
Psalm 48, 2 Corinthians 12:8-10, Mark 6:6-13
Sermon Text: 2 Samuel 5:4, 10 NRSV

5:4 David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. 5:10 And David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him.

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Although David had been anointed King of Israel by Samuel as a boy, it took many years of struggle before he could experience the fulfillment of God’s destiny for him. David needed faith to sustain him in the face of the most difficult challenges to God’s plan. Everything was his by God’s decree, but it did not come to him right away.

Could you hold out for seven years, knowing that what God had for you was just a few miles hence, and yet thousands of misguided minds stood in the way? How difficult it is to pursue our goals when many obstacles, many bigots, many challengers stand in our way. But it is through tribulation that we

achieve God's future, God's realm and God's will. When we fully embrace God's guidance, presence and promise, when we find our sufficiency in God. The rough edges, dependence on others approval, even on our own sufficiency, must be removed. When we come to understand that dependence on what others think and do will cause us to miss God's direction, then we can face the future with hope. God said to Paul as he sought to establish his right to lead the Corinthian church in the face of their criticism, "My grace is sufficient for you. My power is made perfect in the face of your weakness, your limitations and their rejection." The poet wrote,

No never alone, no never alone,
He promised never to leave me,
Never to leave me alone.

In their minds, David was not the legitimate ruler. Only when King Saul and his sons were utterly defeated, would they accept David as their king. By

their actions as well as their words, they rejected him, believing that he didn't belong. His tribe was a minority of Israel. He was dark and short and young—not meeting any of their criteria, but he was God's choice.

We who truly believe and love the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ, have, like the Apostle Paul, been seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. These things that cannot be articulated, can yet be realized by our living in the sufficiency of God. Ignoring the negative circumstances and critics around us, like Israel, stuck in the past of King Saul, we now understand the sermon of Jesus when he proclaimed.

The kingdom of God is at hand. The kingdom of God is, even now, has become your present reality.

Jesus encouraged his disciples by saying,

“If anyplace and anyone will not welcome you, as you leave, shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”

Jesus was clear. You don't need their acceptance. You don't need their approval. You don't need their affirmation. What you have in me, is indeed sufficient for your journey into life in all its fullness.

Amen.