Into the Shallows?

I have been very encouraged by Richie's series entitled, *The Gospel According to David*. I love the story of David! Though he had his trials and tribulations, David was a man who expressed a personal faith in the living God, even in the midst of his struggles. In my reading of 1 Samuel, I have noticed two fundamental truths. First, David's record is not much better than Saul's. Secondly, Saul became embittered and hardened because of the difficulties of his life. David, on the other hand, was a man who leaned into the sovereignty of God as a result of his spiritual struggles and harassments. Consequently, he was identified as a man who longed for the heart of God. Saul, though crowned king of Israel, through self-reliance, worry and jealousy, waded in the shallows when it came to his relationship with the Lord. On the other hand, David was a man who raced into the depths of the Gospel and plumbed the depths of a loving and gracious relationship with the Living God.

As you consider the strength of your relationship with the Lord, which of the above would characterize your relationship – shallows or depths?

I would like for you to consider the Lord's training methods for His servants. It is enlightening to look at the tools God used to train David for his *kingly* role, his *kingly* role. The premise that I would propose to you is that God prepared David for his future *faith* role, his *kingly* role, through four disciplines. These disciplines, which are described by Chuck Swindoll are *solitude, obscurity, monotony, and reality.*

The first training ground is **Solitude.** We see this principle being played out in 1 Samuel 16.11, *he is tending the sheep.* David was far away from his family and many of the outside influences of his life. He was alone with God as the shepherd of his father's sheep. In the wisdom of God, what a place for him to be! Paul Tillich once stated, *In the poverty of solitude all riches are present.* I believe it is true that solitude has nurturing qualities of its own. Swindoll stated, *Anyone who must have superficial sounds to survive lacks depth. If you can't stand to be alone with yourself, you have deep, unresolved conflicts in your inner life. Solitude has a way of helping us address those issues.*

When was the last time you got alone with the Lord in order to soak in the wisdom and the beauty of His Word? Have you ever taken an hour, a half day, a whole day, and spent that time with the living God? Are you turning your ear to His voice and your heart to His will and His way? David was a man who longed for the heart of God because it was in this **solitude** that he learned to recognize the voice of God.

The second training ground is **Obscurity.** In the story of David, we have one of the major themes of the Bible. In ancient times the world gave the oldest son the honor, power and prestige that were due him by his birth order. Every time God works in Scripture, He works to reverse the values of the world. In 1 Samuel 16, in David's case, honor is not given to the oldest; it is given to the youngest. David is a man who is described as the runt of the litter - he was out in obscurity tending the sheep on the countryside. I believe that it is a true statement: God shapes leaders in the place that is not known and is not seen. He desires to keep them from the applause of the world, for He longs to mold and shape them, personally and individually, after His own image. David was a man who longed for the heart of God because it was in this **obscurity** that he learned to walk by faith rather than by trusting in his talents and gifts.

The third training ground is **Monotony.** Here we find David faithful in the menial, insignificant, routine, unexciting, regular and uneventful daily tasks of life. Swindoll continues the thought, *constant, unchanging, endless hours of tired monotony as you learn to be the man or woman of God... with nobody else around, when nobody else notices, when nobody else cares.* David was a man who longed for the heart of God because it was in this **monotony** that he learned the importance of obedience when no one else was looking. He was a man of integrity.

The fourth training ground is **Reality.** When we think about this discipline, we need to go to 1 Samuel 17. Goliath is shouting his threats against Israel. Seemingly, the entire nation was coming apart in fear. Saul also was held captive by fear. Note what David had to say in 1 Samuel 17. 34 – 35: *But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep [solitude, obscurity, and monotony]. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock [reality], I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it.”* David was a man who longed for the heart of God because it was in this **reality** that he learned that the living God could be trusted.

So...how would you characterize your relationship with the Lord? Plumbing the depths? Or, wading in the shallows? Think about it!
IPC Announcements

Congratulations: to Miriam and Chase Pittman on the birth of their daughter, Jane Ferriss, on May 14, and to Christi and Brad Heacox on the birth of their son, Jake Austen, on June 19, and to Brittany and David Spence on the birth of their son, Miller David, on June 22.

Our Church in Bereavement: to the family and friends of Lawrence Barton Walthal (Laurie), who died on May 21, and to James Brown on the death of his brother, Jack Ingram Brown, on May 29, and to Gil Brandon, Sr., on the death of his wife, Mosnnae Grey Brandon, on June 5.

Junior High Ministry

No JH Sunday School on July 4th
breakfast in IPC Fellowship Hall
No JH Wednesday Nights in July
Start back August 11

Water Buffalo - Mondays 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
July 12: The Fowlkes’ (210-1287)
6623 Conifer Cove • Memphis, TN 38119
July 19: The Selbergs’ (216-3854)
2479 Cedar Dale Drive • G’town, TN 38139
July 26: The Maddens’ (832-2237)
492 Sweetbriar Road • Memphis, TN 38120

Thursday Morning Bible Study
9:30 - 11:00 a.m. • July 1, 8, 22, 29
Boys @ Crosby’s
5067 Wingdale • Memphis, TN 38117
Girls @ Emily’s
3767 Shirlwood • Memphis, TN 38122

Senior High Ministry

No SH Sunday School on July 4th
breakfast in IPC Fellowship Hall
No SH Wednesday Nights in July
Start back August 11
SH Missions Trip to Peru / July 20 - 29
SH Missions Trip to London
July 23 - August 2

College Bible Study
TUESDAYS
THROUGH JULY 13
7:30 p.m. - DINNER
8:00 p.m. - SINGING/TEACHING
The Weatherly Home
4535 Kingsbrook Road • Memphis, TN 38117
-casey.cockrum@indepres.org
-or- bill.johns@indepres.org

Fourth of July Breakfast
in the IPC Fellowship Hall • Sunday, July 4, 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

All ages are invited for breakfast and coffee.

Come hear Jim Power, an IPC member and Veteran of World War II

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services will meet in the Sanctuary.

Adult, Children and Student Ministry Sunday School classes will not meet during the 8:30, 9:45 or 11:00 hours. Nursery childcare is available all morning.

Sunday Morning Worship
Summer 2010

The GOSPEL
According to DAVID
Rev. Richie Sessions
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

July 7 – August 4 – Wednesday Evening Fellowship Dinner and Bible Study will NOT meet at IPC.

The Mission of IPC is to make disciples of Jesus Christ in Memphis, calling them into a devoted community of worshiping and maturing believers and sending them out to be salt of the earth and light in the world, all to the glory of God - visit www.indepres.org/sermons2010 to download Richie’s 05/16/10 sermon, The Mission of IPC. For five Wednesday evenings this summer (July 7 - August 4), we want to encourage IPC members to consider how God might be calling them to be salt and light in Memphis. For some, this may mean serving one of the IPC supported Mercy Ministries (www.indepres.org/mercyministries). For others, it may mean having a friend or neighbor over for a meal. For still another, it may mean volunteering for a community event. There are many ways to apply this part of the IPC mission. Would you prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to be salt and light in Memphis this summer?

August 11 – Richie Sessions teaching and Fellowship Dinner resumes in the IPC Fellowship Hall
www.indepres.org/wednesdays

Student and Childen’s Ministry Interns - Summer 2010

Student Ministry Interns (Junior High, Senior High and College)
Mark Miller, Elliott Cherry, Hugh Francis, Ally Stone, Kristen Hoover and Mollie Riggins

Children’s Ministry Interns
Melanie Yarbrough, Emily McBride and Lexie Shanauk

Service Over Self Volunteer Work Week • July 25 - 30
You and your family can sign up to serve in many different ways from prayer to delivering popsicles to workers.

Sign up table at IPC - or - email charlesc@lpinsurance.com
**Weekend Pathway Class for Prospective New Members**

Interested in joining IPC? Save-the-date for a Weekend Pathway Class for prospective new members on Friday, August 20, and Saturday, August 21. (more information will be coming later this month)

**Thank You Notes to IPC - Camp Palmer 2010**

Just thought we'd share a few of the many thank you notes that IPC received from the Palmer Home Children who attended this year's Camp Palmer, which was May 28 - June 2. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's camp such a wonderful time for all involved!

**COME JOIN US FOR A “SPYTASTIC” WEEK OF FUN!**

**VBS**

**July 12 - 16**

**CODE NAME: OPERATION REGISTER SPECIAL AGENTS**

**CHILDREN AGE 4 (BY JUNE 1) - 5TH GRADE**

**1 Timothy 3:16**

[www.indepres.org/vbs](http://www.indepres.org/vbs)

**NOTE:** Gleaning Ministry@IPC is teaming together with VBS for a BOOK DRIVE for the IPC Supported Mercy Ministries. Look for more information soon, and be putting aside a few books to donate during this week!


**Windows on the Weeks**

**Sunday**

*Worship Service ................................................................. 8:30 a.m.*
K-Church (Kindergarten) ....................................................... 8:30 a.m.
Jr. Church — 1st & 2nd Grades .............................................. 8:30 a.m.
*Sunday School and Pathway Class ..................................... 9:45 a.m.*
*Worship Service................................................................. 11:00 a.m.*
K-Church (Kindergarten) ....................................................... 11:00 a.m.
Jr. Church — 1st & 2nd Grades .............................................. 11:00 a.m.
Sr. High Ensemble Rehearsal .............................................. 4:00 p.m.
Sr. High Small Groups ....................................................... 6:15 p.m.
Prayer Time ............................................................................. 5:00 p.m.
Jr. High Small Groups .......................................................... 6:00 p.m.

**Tuesday**

Men's Prayer Breakfast ....................................................... 6:30 a.m.

(Note: for July Workout Room Hours call 763-3857)

*A fully staffed nursery is available during these times.*

Call Cindy Wright, Nursery Director, for more information at 685-8206.
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<td>Worship Services at 8:30 &amp; 11:00</td>
<td>Men’s Prayer Breakfast 6:30 - 7:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Men’s The Word 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Adult, Children’s and Student Ministry will not meet during the 8:30, 9:45 &amp; 11:00 Mass</td>
<td>College Bible Study 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>No Wednesday Evening Ministries</td>
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<td>IPC Bookstore and Church Offices will be Closed in Observance of July 4 Holiday</td>
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<td>Worship &amp; Communion Services at 8:30 &amp; 11:00</td>
<td>Men’s Prayer Breakfast 6:30 - 7:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Sunday School &amp; Pathway Class 9:45 a.m.</td>
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<td>Prayer Time 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Missions Committee Meeting 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>IPC Bookstore Closed for inventory</td>
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<td>Music Committee 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Worship Committee 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Men’s Night Out at the Redbirds 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No Wednesday Evening Ministries</td>
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<td>Worship Services at 8:30 &amp; 11:00</td>
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<td>SOS Volunteer Work Week • July 25 - 30</td>
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<td>SH Peru Mission Trip returns</td>
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MORE INFORMATION AT WWW.INDEPRES.ORG
unconditional love – a love so strong that she was able to seek out and forgive her family's killers. It is a triumphant story of faith and freedom. It is a story that is heavy and deep and rich - one that you will want to read and tell others about as well.

The Forgotten Man: A New History of the Great Depression - In The Forgotten Man, Amity Shlaes, one of the nation's most respected economic commentators, offers a striking reinterpretation of the Great Depression. She traces the mounting agony of the New Deal and the moving stories of individual citizens who through their brave perseverance helped establish the steadfast character we recognize as America can today. This is not what you learned in history.

Son of Hamas by Mosab Hassan Youse - In Son of Hamas, Mosab, the son who left his own father to ultimately learn about His Heavenly Father and His Ways.

Troublesome Young Men by Lynne Olson - On May 7, 1940, the House of Commons began perhaps the most crucial debate in British parliamentary history. On its outcome hung the future of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain’s government – and also of Britain – indeed, the world. Troublesome Young Men is Lynne Olson’s dramatic account of how, up to that debate, and of how a small group of rebellious MPs came to defy Chamberlain’s policies, which were appeasing Europe's tyrants, and forcing his resignation. This is a very relevant story of rare political value – and genuine political leadership – a key moment of national crisis.

The Light and the Glory for Children: Discovering God’s Plan for America from Christopher Columbus to George Washing - The Light and the Glory for Children makes clear to young readers, ages nine to twelve, how God’s plan for America. The book poses questions such as, “How did Columbus, Squanto, John Winthrop, George Whitefield, and George Washington help make America a special nation?” And “What happened as the generation that followed the Puritans moved west and settled new lands?” This is a great book for young and independent readers.

Also, a few reading suggestions from Shepherd Press:

Herein is Love: Commentary Series for Children (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers) - “Bible commentaries for children? Yes, Bible commentaries for parents to read to their children. This series of books provides what children need – solid truths on which to grow. Too much material for children is so light and fluffy that children are not encouraged to think great and glorious thoughts about God. These books are different. Artfully written, they beautifully draw out the implications of the Old Testament narrative that are foundational for Christian faith. I guarantee that your children will not want you to stop reading these books and you won’t want to stop either.” – Tedd Tripp

Troublesome Young Men - teaches how to reach angry, unmotivated teens using biblical counsel. “Here is the wisdom of a man who experienced the courage and hope that transforming grace can give, and that hard teenager God has placed in your life. This book is a call to action with biblical perspectives and practical steps that God can change the teenager, and you as well.” – Paul Tripp