

More from Megan L. Anderson. Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Imagining a young David strumming his harp in the fields, I wonder where his thoughts wandered. Did he feel any inkling that he was perhaps meant for more, that his time watching his father's sheep was preparing him as shepherd king of God's flock Israel? If so, did he wrestle a similar discontentment in his circumstances as I do in mine?

Though I have no aspirations of grandeur, I do often feel as though I'm meant for a different life than what I currently lead. Visions of wasted time and potential sometimes dance a haunting waltz through my head. Fearful thoughts like *Is this all my life amounts to?* creep in like joy-thieves in the night. That isn't to say where I am is a rotten place to be, but it certainly doesn't feel like where I'm meant to stay. But if not here, then where? If not doing this, then what? If not now, when?

Doubt and discontentment are natural symptoms of growth; they nudge us away from the pitfalls of apathy and complacency. At the same time, a lack of clear direction can be taxing on our hearts. Mercifully, God gives us enough for one step at a time:

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving” (Colossians 3:23-24).

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus” (1Thessalonians 5:16-18).

“So then, let us rid ourselves of everything that gets in the way, and of the sin which holds on to us so tightly, and let us run with determination the race that lies before us. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end” (Hebrews 12:1b-2a).

David may or may not have held ambitions greater than jamming on his harp to ovine audiences. We don't know what sense of purpose he felt apart from devoting his life to God. But we do know he did his best where he was and that prepared him for becoming king. If, like me, you're struggling to find purpose and joy where you are, unsure of what your next life step is supposed to be, I hope you find encouragement to pursue righteousness in your circumstances and trust that God intends your experience now as preparation for something greater ahead.