

God using the ordinary in an extraordinary way:

Discipleship and leadership

Japanese Koi fish



In a small fish bowl, the Koi grows to
10cm long.

Japanese Koi fish



In a pond, the Koi grows to 35cm long.

Japanese Koi fish



In a lake, the Koi grows to a metre long.

1 Samuel 16: 7

“the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, **but the LORD looks at the heart.**"

1 Samuel 13:14

- “But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, *because you have not kept the LORD’s command.*”



- “Kish had a son named Saul, as handsome a young man as could be found anywhere in Israel, and he was a head taller than anyone else.” 1 Samuel 9:2



NOVO'S MOTHER

Wait on God's timing:

- *Patience, and waiting on God, are part of mature godly character.*

1 Samuel 24: 3-8

- He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. ⁴ The men said, “This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said to you, ‘I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.’” Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul’s robe. ⁵ Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. ⁶ He said to his men, “The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD’s anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the LORD.” ⁷ With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul.

David sought after God's heart and guidance

- *When faced with significant events in life, David went first to seek the heart of God.*

2 Samuel 5: 18-20

- Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; ¹⁹ so David inquired of the LORD, “Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you deliver them into my hands?” The LORD answered him, “Go, for I will surely deliver the Philistines into your hands.” ²⁰ So David went to Baal Perazim, and there he defeated them. He said, “As waters break out, the LORD has broken out against my enemies before me.”

2 Samuel 5: 22-25

- Once more the Philistines came up and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; so David inquired of the LORD, and he answered, “Do not go straight up, but circle around behind them and attack them in front of the poplar trees. As soon as you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the poplar trees, move quickly, because that will mean the LORD has gone out in front of you to strike the Philistine army.” So David did as the LORD commanded him, and he struck down the Philistines all the way from Gibeon^l to Gezer.

Acts 16: 6-7

- “They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.”
- “ When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.”

Acts 16: 8-10

- “so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.”

**David shows that we are all
vulnerable.**

1 Samuel 12: 1-4

- and sent Nathan to David. Nathan said to him, “There were two men in the same city—one rich, the other poor. The rich man had huge flocks of sheep, herds of cattle. The poor man had nothing but one little female lamb, which he had bought and raised. It grew up with him and his children as a member of the family. It ate off his plate and drank from his cup and slept on his bed. It was like a daughter to him.
- “One day a traveller dropped in on the rich man. He was too stingy to take an animal from his own herds or flocks to make a meal for his visitor, so he took the poor man’s lamb and prepared a meal to set before his guest.”

1 Samuel 12: 5-6

- David exploded in anger. “As surely as GOD lives,” he said to Nathan, “the man who did this ought to be lynched! He must repay for the lamb four times over for his crime and his stinginess!”

1 Samuel 12: 7-12

- “You’re the man!” said Nathan. “And here’s what GOD, the God of Israel, has to say to you: I made you king over Israel. I freed you from the fist of Saul. I gave you your master’s daughter and other wives to have and to hold. I gave you both Israel and Judah. And if that hadn’t been enough, I’d have gladly thrown in much more. So why have you treated the word of GOD with brazen contempt, doing this great evil? You murdered Uriah the Hittite, then took his wife as your wife. Worse, you killed him with an Ammonite sword!”

How do we avoid this pitfall?

- Place yourself where God would have you be!

Kings led the troops in war...

- 1 Samuel 18:16 “But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns.”
- 2 Samuel 5: 2
- “In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns.”

2 Samuel 11: 1-2

- “In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.”

How do we avoid this pitfall?

- Refuse to take the wrong second step!

2 Samuel 11: 2-3

- “From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her.”

- “After he left Hebron, David took more concubines and wives in Jerusalem, and more sons and daughters were born to him.”

2 Samuel 5:13

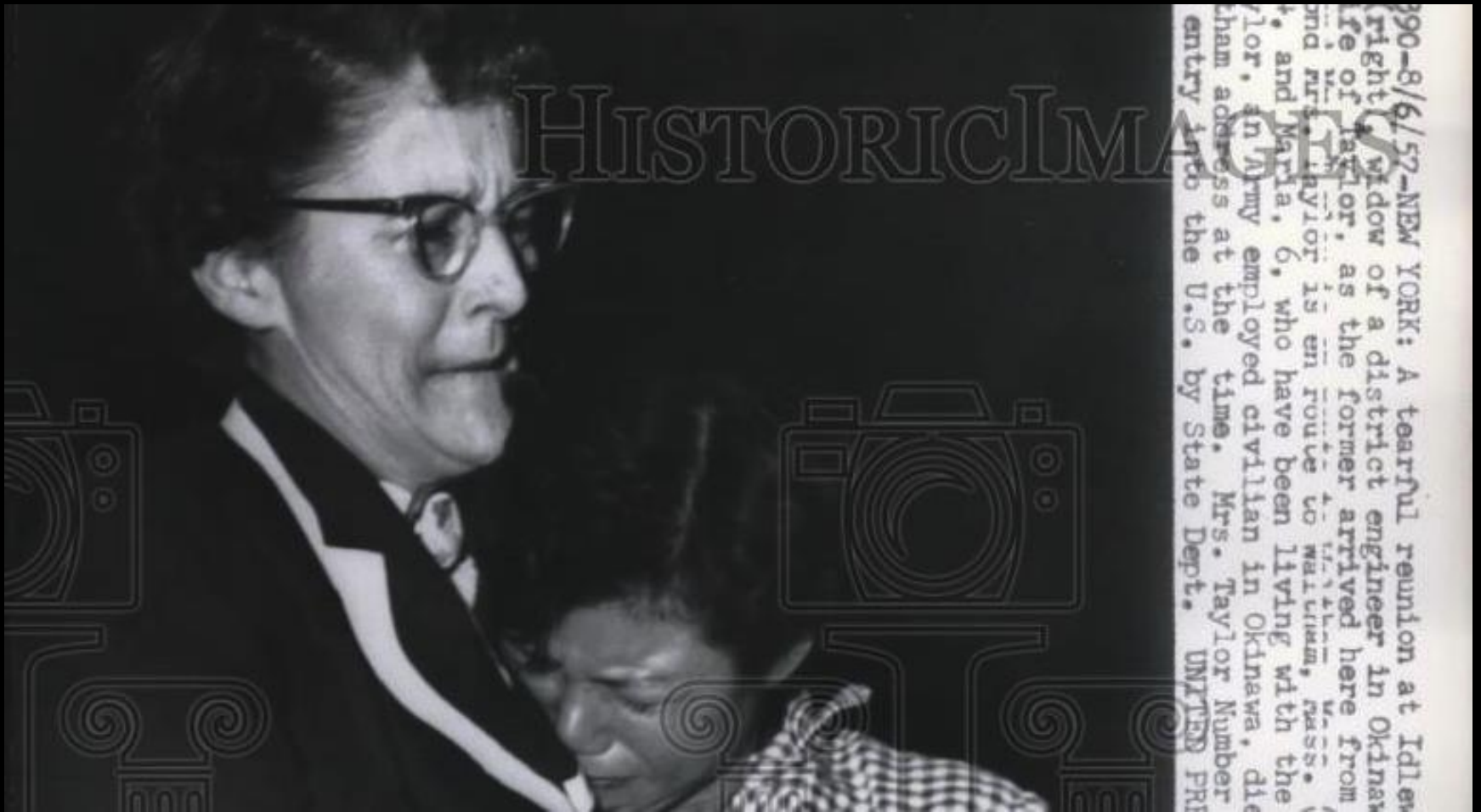
- This was despite Deuteronomy’s clear instruction that a king “**must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray.**”

Deut: 17:17

How do we avoid this pitfall?

- We need to come before God and repent.

Edith & Aiko Taylor



1990-8/6/57-NEW YORK: A tearful reunion at Idler
right widow of a district engineer in Okinawa
le of Taylor, as the former arrived here from
nd Mrs. Taylor is en route to Walling, Mass.
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