

## 18. God's man, but nobody noticed

2/13/2019

Last 4 weeks we studied about Saul who was heading for the pit day after day. Though we learn a lot from his mistakes, we can be depressed by our sinful natures that relate with Saul's. But we are turning to rather an uplifting direction this evening.

Outward appearances can be very deceiving. If we go by what we see only, we'd be in a lot of troubles most of our life. We are going to find what God sees in humans is completely different than what we see from the outside of them.

David. Jesse's youngest son. A shepherd boy of Bethlehem. Giant-slayer. Teenage king-elect. Composer of psalms. Saul's personal musician. Jonathan's closest friend. He rose from a hunted fugitive to the king of Israel. And he fell from a champion in battle to an aged and troubled monarch.

David – a man of glorious triumph, yet great tragedy. Uniquely gifted, but human to the core; strong in battle, but weak at home. Why are we drawn to study his life? Because David isn't a polished-marble personality. He is blood and bone and breath, sharing our struggles of spirit and soul. I believe that we will learn a lot from his life.

### A. TIME TO MOVE ON

*1 Samuel 16:1-3 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." And 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."*

Who has an interpretation of this section for me?

As we learned in the last study, there is no reason for us to dwell on the past. If something bad happened, let it go. Learn from it, don't let it happen again. If something bad and ugly happened to you beyond your control, it is not your fault. Don't take the blame, nor should we feel guilty about it. Let's move on, because God is on the move.

King Saul was still in office and yet he was unfit to lead the nation, and Samuel had broken fellowship with him. In his grief, Samuel must have felt like a dismal failure as a father, a spiritual leader, and a mentor to the new king. The word translated "mourn" means "to mourn for the dead" and reveals the depths of Samuel's sorrow.

God will never allow His work to die with the death or failure of a man. If it is God's work, it goes beyond any man. Perhaps Samuel was paralyzed with mourning because of Saul's tragic rebellion, but God was not paralyzed.

*"For I have provided Myself a king"*

This phrase is very emphatical, and implies the difference between this and the former king. Saul was a king of the people's providing, he was the product of their uncontrolled and sinful desires. God was done with Saul.

The Bible is so real that it is scary. I am glad that I didn't live in the period when the Bible was recorded. I don't want people to dissect my life and see how many stupid mistakes I made. The Bible does not hide some bad aspects of great men of God. It shows each man's good and bad points without any hesitation. Here is one example of that in Samuel's life. This is the only negative thing of Samuel that was recorded in the Bible. He was showing fear of Saul even though the Lord was with him. Instead of rebuking Samuel, the merciful Lord graciously accommodated his timidity with a reason to go to Bethlehem.

Samuel was fearful to go down to Jesse's house to anoint one of his sons as the next king. Saul wouldn't be happy about this. So the Lord did an interesting thing. He told Samuel to take a heifer with him and say that he was going down to offer a sacrifice. This would be truthful, but not the whole truth. Often people wonder if they should tell the truth, even if the truth may hurt and destroy. Sometimes people confess something they feel guilt over, when the other party has no idea that the offensive action happened, and the confession does more harm than the sin itself. There are times when we just need to keep things to ourselves. Some things are better left unsaid. Why hurt or damage a relationship?

## **B. MAN LOOKS, GOD SEES**

*1 Samuel 16:4-7 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 the height of his 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."*

What do you get out of this?

Samuel's arrival was no small matter to the people of Bethlehem. Considering that Samuel had just hacked the Amalekite king Agag in pieces, it's no wonder the elders of Bethlehem were afraid.

Assured of his peaceful intentions, Samuel then called together Jesse and his sons to participate in a sacrifice during which God would reveal His chosen man.

Samuel looked over seven of Jesse's sons, thinking that the whole family was there, but he was operating by sight and not by faith. Though Samuel already went through a horrendous stuff with the good looking king of Israel, Saul, he was impressed by Eliab's appearances. But the Lord was not impressed with the person's appearance or at his physical stature. Because God is not a respecter of man's outward appearance. But He sees our hearts. God saw the heart of David that was after His own heart. Samuel had already forgotten this mistake the people made about Saul.

How much do we need to learn from God?! Rather than embracing or rejecting others based on their status or lack of it, their wealth or poverty, their beauty or plainness, their cleverness or their gullibility, we should look at their character.

We need to do what Samuel did: look to the Lord for discernment and wait for His choice, whether that's a business partner, a mate, or a leader. God alone can search the human heart and know what a person's motives really are.

*Jeremiah 17:10 I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.*

It is not only applying to individuals, but also the churches in America. Just because one church is bigger than the other churches down the street, somehow we tend to think that the pastor of the bigger church is more spiritual than the smaller fellowship pastors. I know many of the spiritual giants who pastor small Calvary Chapels in Arizona. God just chooses to give them different task.

### **C. MAN FORGETS, BUT GOD REMEMBERS**

*1 Samuel 16:8-12 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!"*

Please give me your interpretation of this portion.

The world is full of idolatry, but I doubt that no idolatry has been more extensively practiced than the idolatry of the outward appearance. If you don't agree with me, just look at the fashions that Hollywood brings into our culture. Latest style of eye-glasses, latest style of dresses, suits, beards, hair styles and let's not forget cars. Somehow the general public thinks that whatever the actors and actresses in Hollywood do, they have to do. Otherwise, heaven forbids, they would be out of fashion and out of touch. Let's face it, we tend to idolize people more than God.

After the parade of Jesse's sons apparently over, Samuel was puzzled. God had promised to select a king from this family, but where was he?

Eliab and the six other sons of Jesse were good potential kings as far as the flesh like Saul is concerned. But God didn't want another king after the flesh. Israel already had one of those! God needed to do more than fix up a fleshly king. God looked for a different kind of king, the one with His own heart.

Mom and Dad, unless you want strife in your home, do not treat your children differently. You may not think it is no big deal, but to them it is. Aren't we glad that God doesn't treat us any different than Billy Graham? Jesus died for all of our sins, not just for Billy Graham. We need to appreciate each of our children equally, even if you have one kid who is like an angel and sitting quietly and polishing his halo, while the other kid sharpening his horns on his head by making a house look like it would right after a cyclone hits.

If Samuel was from the South, he would tell Jesse, "Fetch that boy!"

even brought him to the selection process. A mere teenager, David was out tending the sheep, faithfully serving his family in the job he'd been given. We can hardly imagine his shock when, plucked from his shepherding, he found himself face-to-face with a prophet of God.

David did not choose to be king. God chose David to be king. And where was David when he was summoned? Serving in obscurity. When we trust that God chooses the part we play, then we need not worry about our obscurity and anonymity, only our obedience to play our part.

David was the eighth son of Jesse. Number eight signifies the new beginning in Jewish custom. This is often how God chooses. God often chooses unlikely people to do His work, so that all know the work is God's, not man's.

*1 Corinthians 1:27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty*

In OT times, kings and their officers were looked upon as "shepherds" of the people, and David was a man with the heart of a shepherd. God's church today is a flock, and each spiritual leader needs to have the heart of a shepherd and lovingly care for God's lambs and sheep.

You can drive cattle, but you have to lead sheep or they will scatter. For the most part, the sheep are defenseless and do not see well, so they depend on the shepherd to guide and protect them. Though David was a literal shepherd who was called to be a "national" shepherd, he saw himself as one of the Lord's sheep and wrote about it in Psalm 23. This psalm wasn't the product of a young man, but of a seasoned believer who looked back at a long life and confessed that the Lord had been faithful to him all the days of his life according to v6. David was exactly the kind of leader Israel needed to repair all the damage that Saul had done to the nation.

#### **D. ANOINTING THE GOD'S CHOICE**

*1 Samuel 16:13 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.*

What kind of interpretation are you getting from this paragraph?

Imagine David's surprise. One minute he's swatting flies in the pasture, and the next he's getting oil poured over his head. The Jewish historian Josephus tells us in his book "The Antiquities of the Jews" that Samuel whispered in David's ear that God had chosen him to be the next king of Israel. Of course, we don't know if that was true or not.

The real anointing happened when the Holy Spirit came upon David. The oil on the head was just a sign of this inward reality:

- 1) The symbol of the Holy Spirit coming upon David was the anointing oil on his head.
- 2) The symbol of the Holy Spirit coming upon Jesus was the dove that appeared from heaven. – Matthew 3:16
- 3) The symbol of the Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples was the tongues of fire that appeared over their heads. – Acts 2:3

The Holy Spirit loves to do His work as He wills, in many different ways.

After his anointing, David didn't run out to try on designer crowns at Saks Fifth Avenue or shine up his V8 chariot convertible and ride through Bethlehem announcing his new position of royalty. He didn't even bronze Samuel's horn to hang on his tent. Instead, his humility shone like the sheen of his fleshly anointed head as he, the king-elect, went back to the sheep fields where there was no adoring fans waiting until God's hand moved Him onto the throne.

## **E. APPLICATIONS**

**1) God's solutions are often strange and simple. Let's BE OPEN.**

*Isaiah 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.*

**2) God's methods for selecting His own people to use in His kingdom is much different than ours Let's BE AVAILABLE.**

**3) Just because God is using us, that doesn't mean that we run wild with that new status. Let's BE CALM.**