

**Seoul Grace Community**

**David: Lessons for a Wounded Life**

**“The New King” 1 Samuel 16: 1-13**

**May 15, 2015**

**1. Introduction**

- a. Through the life of David, we are seeing the unique and radically counter-cultural way in which God operates to lead and care for His people.
- b. This passage is key because it is the time in which God is choosing a new king—in a radically unique manner that has impacts for our lives and how we recognize beauty and favor in ourselves and others

**2. The “People’s King”**

- a. Samuel is sent to Jesse’s home to choose the new king after Saul has been rejected
- b. God sees the oldest child but doesn't choose him.
- c. Samuel thinks that the oldest must surely be the chosen one (the one of “greatest stature”). Of course we would want the strong tall guy on our team. We look at the outward appearance.
- d. God knows what the kingdom truly needs.
  - i. Not strength or appearance.
  - ii. But the condition of his heart.
- e. We live in a time where appearances matter.
  - i. “Optics” started to matter about who ran the kingdom
  - ii. It was this way with Samuel.
  - iii. He wanted the king to be the elder son of better stature because that's what culture dictated.

**3. The “New King”**

- a. David is chosen and he’s not the likely candidate at all
  - i. He's the eighth child (not the perfect number of seven—He's outside of the Biblically numerical understanding of perfection)
  - ii. David is called the youngest or “small one”—it literally means the runt of the litter.
    - 1. And he’s not even invited into the selection process! They have to go get him in the field.
    - 2. He’s an afterthought all along!
      - a. And the fact that David is out caring for the sheep is what’s going to make all the difference in the world not too much later when he confront Goliath
      - b. He has the confidence to face Goliath because he learned out in the fields as a nobody, a castoff, the youngest son
  - iii. Reversal of primogeniture. Here God is continuing his pattern of reversing the world’s order of preference.
  - iv. It was foolish to choose David among his brothers.
    - 1. The kingdom needed survival and couldn’t handle a runt to lead it.
    - 2. It made NO sense whatsoever!!!!
    - 3. And this is what God does time and time again—choosing the younger and lesser over the older and more accomplished: Moses not Aaron, Joseph over his older brothers, Jacob over Esau, etc.
  - v. Was David chosen because he was better than his brothers? No, it doesn’t say that at all.
    - 1. He was chosen by grace
    - 2. It says that the spirit rushed into him
    - 3. True kingship came because of the gift of the Holy Spirit.
    - 4. We know his because David is going to make a mess later yet God will forgive him and guide him
  - vi. Contrast to the estimation Samuel had of Eliab—Eliab had stature and precedence in the family not just because he was tall but because he was the elder—the older always got the birthright in culture but not necessarily in God’s eyes
    - 1. The normal king attains and hordes power (Saul and his monument to himself).
    - 2. The true king comes low and lifts up the needy.
    - 3. Ordinary humans say your life for mine.

4. True love says my life for yours. This is real beauty. This is what God sees.
  5. The Holy Spirit has to come in because David wasn't capable of this and neither are we!
- b. But, there's another time when a leader is chosen for the people and it makes even less sense.
- i. 1 Corinthians 1: The Greeks wanted wisdom and The Jews wanted power (signs).
  - ii. But we get Jesus—the ultimate son of Bethlehem, the true David to be king
  - iii. He was stripped of his beauty but showed real beauty on the cross.
  - iv. That's the true king—the little guy you never see coming—true beauty that gets rejected because God's standards of what is beautiful is radically different than ours

#### 4. Conclusion

- a. How does this change us?
- i. First, if we feel we are broken, the runt, our family hasn't invited us to the selection show party, take heart in the fact that God is probably choosing you among others
  - ii. Secondly, this should make us reevaluate our relationships with others.
    1. Who do we form friendships with? Why? Because they give us an advantage?
    2. Are you starting to see real beauty in life? Who do you network with?
    3. Or are we choosing the runt of the litter as God does? Do we see the ones on the bottom and know that they are more famous than we ever dared imagine?
  - iii. Know this: David's life starts small, but God chooses him. Why? By grace and grace alone!!!
    1. Psalm 139: 1 You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. 2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. 3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. 4 Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. 5 You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.
    2. God truly knows each one of us in a profoundly exact way—and he doesn't reject us, but he accepts us through the death of his son
    3. We begin to see the pattern of humility in which God works through the gospel of Jesus Christ to choose us and bring us home!
    4. But God chose him for me as he chooses you and me—Not by our merits or accomplishments, but for his son's merits.