

*Moment of Silence

*Happy Father's Day & Happy Juneteenth

-Good dads & Dads who left

-Emancipation of slaves

-Celebrate abolition of race based slavery

-Reminded of work it takes to be God glorifying

-Racially diverse & unified church

It's the summer, time for many to visit the Beach

I love the Beach: waves, breeze, sand castles, volleyball

Sure sun burns, sand in hair/car, sharks (not as much)

Had this thought in preparation for this sermon

We say I'm going to the Beach

We don't say I'm going to the Ocean, typically

And generally that's a fair explanation right

Unless you happen to go deep sea fishing/snorkeling

You are staying on the sand

You aren't really exploring the depths of the ocean

Think about documentaries that show you the ocean

How incredibly vast it is

71% of the earth is covered by ocean

96.5% of our water is oceans

We have only mapped 10% of the ocean floor

There are at least 2.2 million marine animals & plants in the ocean, but we regularly discover new ones

The ocean has massive depths to explore and enjoy

We could spend a lifetime plumbing its depths

And still have more to explore

But we're going to the Beach—Salt Life

We'd rather stay in the shallow water

Than explore the vast ocean

This illustrates something about humanity

Show Sermon Title: **Shallow & Deep: Trading a Shallow Existence for a Deeper Life with God**

We are more comfortable staying near the surface

Dipping our feet in the shallow water

But fearful of exploring what is deep & vast

As we step back into 1 Samuel today

We will see this aspect of the human condition

Show on Screen: Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

God tells Samuel- time for a new King

Samuel's response- Saul will kill me

God's solution: I got u dawg, Hebrew BBQ

Grilling with Jesse & the boys

God will tell him who to anoint.

At the BBQ, Eliab walks in

Samuel assumes- he is the one

Because he's tall & big

"Certainly..."

ANE- King is a warrior, fighter

The bigger the better; other nations fear you

God- He isn't the one

Show 1 Samuel 16:7

Verse for me: Don't look at appearance, stature

Because I have rejected him

Humans do not see what the LORD sees

For humans see what is visible

But the LORD sees the heart."

God makes a statement about humanity

Humans can't see as God sees

So, what's the problem?

Samuel assumes Eliab would be great

Because he's a big dude
Pictures Eliab walking in the building
Everybody's hands go up (& they stay there)
God called this a shallow interpretation
The things that make a good king
In the eyes of humanity—size, skill, strength
Weren't as important in God's eyes
The externals, what we can see
Often speak volumes to us
But God can see through that veneer
He considers it to be a shallow mindset

Point 1) We value shallow traits like beauty, talent, & intellect.

Shallow meaning easily observable, external
Not necessarily bad
But just scratching the surface of what makes
A human life valuable
Things easily seen
And make snap judgments about
what makes someone valuable

BEAUTY

It immediately grabs our attention

We want to watch attractive people

We want to be attractive people

Have attractive homes, drive attractive cars

Want to visit attractive places

We are magnets for beauty

First reaction to this is OF COURSE

Why wouldn't we be?

God made the world a wonderful, beautiful place

He made people with incredible diversity

We should recognize that

In the words of Fatboy Slim

I've got to praise you like I shouuuuuuld

Our problem is that we often give the surface level trait of beauty far too much credence

Studies show attractive ppl...

- are rated higher in interviews

- are offered higher salaries

- make more money

- perform better in elections

- are rated as better teachers

- get better grades
- are considered better public speakers
- are generally considered more trustworthy

We obsess about beauty for ourselves

- Gym memberships
- Skin Care, Hair Care
- Expensive Diets
- All to Hide imperfections

If ppl think I'm beautiful, they'll accept me

They will want me around

Who is saying, sorry Ryan Gosling,

But I'm busy hanging out with my ugly friends this weekend

We have an over-desire for beauty

A shallow approach to it

Like a passionate foodie gorging themselves at Ryan's Buffet

We settle for cheap substitutes instead of deeper beauty

BEAUTY: Charm is deceitful, Beauty is vain

(Show verse: Prov 31:30)

An illustration of thinking about a marriage helps

Beauty is part of initial attraction
Something you always appreciate about them
But that initial beauty morphs over time
So that even when the bodily beauty starts to fade
A deep love and appreciation exists for the person
Contrast that with an over desire for beauty
If a little beauty is good, a lot of beauty is great
Pornography lives on this lie
But consuming more and more and more beauty
Doesn't leave us with a greater appreciation for it
But less appreciation for it
Stunts ability to appreciate the beauty of emotional intimacy
The deeper parts of relationships that make them amazing

We're obsessed with TALENT

-Athletes

Millions tune in to watch feats of athletic ability
Talking heads gush about inner details of athletes' lives
Pay attention closely so we don't miss an amazing thing
Buy their jerseys, talk about them on lunch breaks
Follow their every moves

Excitedly talk about who is the next great athlete
Obsess about the possibility of that being our kids
-Musical Artists, Celebrities
Pay big money for concerts, merch
Give our evenings to watching them perform
Obsess about the intimate details of their lives
Dream about what it would be like to be them
Rarely have a moment without their influence
Wake up listen to music/radio/podcast
Often do that while we work
Get home and watch celebrities live real life

Not wrong to recognize TALENT & appreciate it
But we're taking one aspect of a person
And glorifying that
We've seen the danger of TALENT
Without deeper character
Can destroy a team, has destroyed every band
Sometimes the thing we value so much in
A TALENTED person might be the thing
That they have pursued at all cost

The cost is often their relationships
We don't want to emulate that
And for us as fans
When we fill our days consuming TALENT
Watching, listening, reading about these people
We end up Passive and Distracted
It's easier to read about a HS senior being recruited to Auburn
Than help my kids through their sibling conflict
It's easier to mindlessly watch a show
Than journal about why we're so anxious at work

TALENT: For the training of the body has limited benefit, but godliness is beneficial in every way, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

(Show verse 1 Tim 4:8)

TALENT that serves a greater purpose
Recognizes power to bless others, serve, build others up

We're obsessed with INTELLECT

- PhD's, MD's, Education
- Technological advancement
- Financial Gurus

Some of us do struggle with wanting to be the smartest

But I think for most of us, this is shifting

We value INTELLECT often for the purpose of building wealth

Search “Value of a college degree”

Every article starts with

“College grads earn more & have better career opportunities.”

We obsess about education for our kids

Not typically because of the value of education itself

But because of what that will mean for their lifestyle

We value wealth because of what it buys for us

Pleasure- fun vacations, nice homes, amenities

Security- access to education, safety, comfort, no worry

*Students visiting me: Job Title desired but \$\$\$\$

INTELLECT: Guard against greed, possessions aren't ur life

Show Verse: Luke 12:15

Jesus then told them, “Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because one's life is not in the abundance of his possessions.”

We miss the reality that God gave us brains/minds

To know Him, to understand His world

To obey the command to cultivate

Use our knowledge of the world to make it a better place

To serve and build up others

Instead our greatest minds push for ever newer technology

That ironically leaves us with SMART phones in hand

But far more dumb than we'd like to admit

Because we've trained our brains NOT to work out

Not to struggle, which is exactly how learning takes place

Friends, We're a lot like Samuel

We often make a quick interpretation

Oh, that's the girl, that's the guy

Look at their beauty, their financial portfolio,

Their intellect, their athletic ability

We aren't crowning kings and queens

But we do have the ppl we see as "royal"

Worthy of admiration, praise, awe, respect

And IMITATION

But God sees right through that

God rejects the shallow values, the quick fixes

What doesn't satisfy or bring life

Point 2) The deeper traits God values are only cultivated through dependence on the Holy Spirit.

First, what does God value?

Show Verse: 1 Samuel 16:7

The heart

It's an internal component

Not something surface level but deeper

What are these deeper traits?

Lots of passages we could look at

Our fighter verse this month

Show verse: Gal 5:21-22

But the fruit of the Spirit is...

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience

Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness, Faithfulness

Self-Control

In David, we see many of these things

-Joy: dance in his skivvies worshiping God

-Patience: refused to take kingship into his own hands though he had countless opportunities to assassinate Saul

-Peace: refused to take judgment into his own hands

-Kindness: welcomed Saul's grandson as his own

These are the traits necessary to wade into the deeper waters of life in fellowship with the Holy Spirit

Show Verse: Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Perspective we need

-All authority/power is Jesus

Nothing in this world can operate rightly w/o his input

Call to activity- GO

Tie this together with the call from Gen 1 to CULTIVATE

Get into the world God made and cultivate it

Pour into people, invest in people

Don't use them for your own ends

Don't ignore them because of distractions

Go yourself to the deeper waters of knowing God

Say no to more shallow ends

And see the beauty that is life transformation

That God is trying to bring about in the ppl right around you

This is the life that God has for us

And it's right in front of our faces

But we have to look much deeper to find it

Think about how you are shaping yourself

What are you pursuing

What do you value

Are you seeing the opportunities right in front of you

To develop the fruits of the Spirit

To make disciples

To enjoy the process of becoming like Jesus

And helping others do the same

Yes it's a difficult journey

But it's THE journey we were made to embark on
It's the ocean depths we're meant to dive into

Second, But how do we get there?

While David was a man after God's own heart
He had massive failures as well
It's not like he just automatically had character, humility

There was an order to what happened with David

David's greatness is tied to being filled with the Spirit
AFTER the anointing, he is filled
That's when the awards start rolling in

Sure it's ironic that he was good-looking
David was attractive
Big blue eyes, so handsome, played a harp
David was in a boyband
But the passage is meant to show
The unlikeliness of his being chosen by God
Jesse's 8th son
Forgotten by his Dad
Didn't even think Samuel could possibly bless him
From an out of the way town, Bethlehem

Not chosen for the battles
But told to watch the sheep

You're cute David
But leave the real stuff to the strong men

God choosing David fits with His typical pattern

-Sarah, was barren

-Jacob, 2nd born instead of Esau

-Joseph, one of the youngest

-Leah, the ugly, not Rachel the beautiful

Verse on Screen

1 Cor 1:28 God has chosen what is insignificant and despised in the world —what is viewed as nothing—to bring to nothing what is viewed as something, (CSB)

You see it as insignificant.

But that's not how I see it

But God who is rich in mercy

Because of his great love for you

Gave himself for you

Even when you were dead in your sins

Wants to make you ALIVE

He is waiting for Jesse

To call you in from the fields

Bypassing all the things we think matter

Not choosing us because of our BEAUTY, TALENT, INTELLECT

But because of his great love for us

Because He made us in His image

And He loves us

He wants to make us NEW

Remember Jesus~

A little town in Bethlehem
Outside of where anyone would notice
A virgin girl had a baby
Nothing special about him
No impressive looks or royal pedigree

All his neighbors
All his family
They didn't believe that he had Kingly qualities

Neither did the religious leaders or political leaders
He was despised and rejected by men

But God does not see as man sees
He saw fit to have the son of God come down
To live a perfect life
To love the unlovable
To flip the script on all our expectations