

Series: The Story (Main Service)

Message Title: Young David

Date: November 25, 2018

Message Outline

Intro:

- Over the past 10 weeks we have been on a journey through the redemptive story of Jesus.
- Our journey is broken down into 5 movements
- The first movement was creation & the fall
- The second movement is building of a nation and covers most of our OT
- Last week we saw the nation of Israel complaining to the Prophet Samuel because his sons who he had appointed as leaders over Israel were not leading well – they were accepting bribes and perverting justice.
- The Elders of Israel came to Samuel and said they wanted to remove his sons from leadership and in their place they wanted a King – like everyone else around them had.
- Samuel attempted to explain to them why having a king was not what was best for them but – they wouldn't budge in their desires so God instructed Samuel to give them what they wanted.
- God chose Saul to be King and he was everything you would expect in a king – he was tall, strong and really good looking. Samuel anointed Saul king and for while everything was pretty good...
 - But in time Saul's head got too big for his crown and his disobedience caused God to remove his spirit from Saul and reject him as king.

Which brings us to 1 Samuel 16...

LESSON 1

1 Samuel 16:1-7

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

- God sends Samuel to a guy named Jesse in Bethlehem because He has chosen one of his sons to be the next king of Israel
- Samuel arrives in Bethlehem, he finds Jesse invites he and his sons to join him for a sacrifice to God, and then explains why he is there
- As Jesse presents his sons to Samuel - my mind's eye pictures it to be something like a beauty pageant.
- Jesse brings out his eldest son Eliab
 - As Eliab walks across the stage he is impressive
 - He is no doubt good looking
 - He is tall
 - He is strong from hard work on the farm
 - He is in my mind's eye Captain America

- When Samuel sees Eliab he is instantly impressed and so much so that Samuel is ready to lift his hand and say that's the one – he looks good to me

But God stops him and says....

1 Samuel 16:7

7 But 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."

There are two types of people in this world...

- Shallow People – they can't see the upper story because of the Lower Story
- Deep People – they see the lower story in light of the Upper Story

God says to Samuel...

- It is human nature to be impressed with surface shows – how things look
- BUT – God says you've got to look deeper than that
- It is human nature to be impressed with form
- BUT – God says you should be impressed with function
- It is human nature to be impressed by the flashy – the glitz and glam
- BUT – God says you've got to look deeper – you've got to look for facts - for morality

So the pageant continues

- Jesse brings out 5 more of his sons – and God says "no he is not the one" to each of them.
- Then Samuel says to Jesse – Is this all of your sons?
- Jesse says no – there is still one more – the youngest – the runt of the litter – He is out taking care of the sheep
- Samuel says – "Bring him to me"
- When David is brought before Samuel – God says... "This is the one!" – so Samuel anoints David in front of his brothers and the power of God comes powerfully upon David.

I don't think there could be any lesson more perfectly crafted for our modern context than the lesson that God taught to Samuel in the selection of David

- If there has ever been a culture in history that has admired and glorified shallow things – lower story things - it is our own.
- Thanks in large part to Social Media your life and my life has been ushered into this global beauty pageant of sorts where everyone is a critic and the shallow is exalted while things of substance are ignored
- We are engulfed in a culture that is conditioning us to believe that
 - Quantity of relationships is more valuable than quality of relationships –
 - Preferring the freedom of conscience of being know a little by a lot of people over the vulnerability and accountability that comes from being know deeply by a few people

- Self-worth comes from the number of likes and followers we have—
- Spending money we don't have on things we don't need to make sure we look good – is a good financial model
 - While it is not sin for us to have nice things – far too often we get captivated by looking good and position ourselves where we give so much to the Lower Story stuff that we have little or nothing left for the Upper Story
- LOOKING GOOD is more valuable than BEING GOOD

The first lesson that we learn from David's story is that **The condition of our heart is far more valuable than looking the part.**

- God didn't choose David because he looked the part
- He didn't choose David because he had checked every box on his daily "How to be like Jesus" checklist for 5 years straight
- God chose David because of the substance and depth of his faith
- God chose David because he was a man after God's own heart

LESSON 2

Summarize the beginning of the encounter of David & Goliath

1 Samuel 17:8-11

⁸ Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." ¹⁰ Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." ¹¹ On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

- Why were Saul and the Israelites afraid?
- Because all they could see is the lower story – they couldn't see past the giant standing in front of them.

Summarize the story up to when David goes to talk to Saul

For his entire life David has been told he is the underdog

- His dad didn't believe he had king potential because he was the youngest and smallest of his brothers
- His brother did believe he had warrior potential because he was just the errand boy and shepherd
- Even now when David is the only person brave enough to step into the valley and fight Goliath Saul doubts that David can succeed.

In a moment where no one else can see the Upper Story because of the Lower Story David drops an ah-ha moment in our laps and shows us why God chose him to be king.

1 Samuel 17:34-37

³⁴ But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷ The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

- In a time where the lower story was blinding everyone from seeing the upper story, David sees how God has orchestrated his lower story to prepare him for this massive Upper Story moment.
- In those long tedious days of tending sheep God was preparing David for this moment
- Nobody was there to see David rescue his sheep from the mouth of a bear and lion
- Nobody was there to see David kill the bear and lion with nothing more than his staff – when they turned on him
- But it was in these unseen lower story moments that God was preparing David for this massive upper story moment that required a faith he would not have had otherwise.

John Wooden is one of my favorite leaders of all time and said **“Success is when preparation meets opportunity”**.

The second lesson we can learn from David’s story is **God prepares us for success in the Upper Story moments through lower story moments most people never see**

- God is preparing you now in the easier moments for the moments that are much harder
- God is preparing you now in the safer moments for the moments that are more dangerous

I think all of us want for God to use us, like He used David, for a massive Upper Story moment blows people away, but I also think most of us don’t get that chance because we are unwilling to let God mold us in the lower story moments that happen when no one is looking.

LESSON 3

After David pleads his case, Saul relents and says... “Go and the Lord be with you.”

Then it is what he asks David to do that I want to draw your attention to...

³⁸ Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. ³⁹ David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

“I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off.

- I don’t know if Saul has David to put on the armor because he still doesn’t believe David has a chance and he wants him to at least look like a champion or if he genuinely felt it was the best chance David had in succeeding

- David tries everything on then he tries to walk around only to quickly discover there is no way he can fight in Saul's armor

The third lesson we learn from David's story is **We can't fight in someone else's armor**

- I think this is two-fold...
 - God made you uniquely you on purpose – trying to be someone else is not God's plan
 - The world is constantly trying to put its armor on you to make you look like the world. We can't live our lives for the Glory of God if our lives look like the world around us.

Paul said it this way in Romans 12... **“Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.”**

LESSON 4

As David walks onto the battlefield dressed in shepherd's clothes and carrying nothing more than his staff, a sling and few stones...

Goliath isn't just shocked he is offended and from a humanistic standpoint I can understand why

- David was a boy who was too young to be a real soldier coming out to fight an experienced war hardened soldier of soldiers
- David was small in stature and coming out to fight a man who is 9ft tall
- David was basically carrying a stick and sling shot and going up against a warrior clothed in armor carrying a sword, shield, and a spear that the average man could not wield

1 Samuel 17:43-46a

⁴³ He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ “Come here,” he said, “and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!”

- Goliath, like I am guessing most of the people watching this whole thing go down can't see anything but the lower story...
 - A giant vs a kid

But David sees a bigger picture and says...

1 Samuel 17:45-47

⁴⁵ David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands.”

- God had prepared David through unseen lower story moments for this massive upper story moment
- And when it arrived David didn't step into it with confidence because of who he was
- David stepped into this amazing moment with confidence because of who he knew God is

The fourth lesson we learn from David's story is **Our fight isn't with the Giants in front of us and it can only be won by God in us**