

The Shepherd-King – the Life of David

Part 1 – The Problem with Stature

1 Samuel 15-16

Our culture is in love with stature

Stature can hide arrogance

- Saul did what he thought was best instead of what God commanded (15.7-9)
- Selective obedience is disobedience, even if we convince ourselves otherwise

Stature can hide blame-shifting

- Saul deflected because he thought he'd be believed (15.13-15, 21)

Stature can hide latent insecurity

- Saul's externals outpaced his internals (15.17)
- He probably kept the king alive to parade him before the Israelites (v.19-20)

Stature can hide the fear of man

- Saul couldn't see through the cloud of fear to the right thing (15.24, 30)
- Proverbs 29.25 – lays a snare

Stature can become a substitute and a distraction

- The biggest problem of stature is not what it can hide in us (because it's never hidden forever).
- The biggest problem is that it substitutes itself for and distracts us from what should be our focus – the heart. That's what God's focused on and we should be too.
- True of Samuel and us! (16.7)

David's Life (16.18)

Man of Valor – somewhere between moxie and fortitude

Man of War – not passive but assertive

- Activity is a prerequisite to assertiveness

Prudent in Speech – watched his words (he was the youngest brother after all)

- But more – knew power of words to do good or do harm

Man of Good Presence – people wanted to be around him

- Irony is he spent a lot of time in the field by himself

Lord was with David – evidence of God’s work in his life (contra v.14)

- He knows the Lord will fulfill His purpose (Psalm 138.8)

3 Observations

Power in music, which is why we sing as a church (Prov. 25.20)

- Developed a skill – music was his thing, but what’s yours?

Humility is often expressed in waiting (v.19)

- He went back to the fields after being anointed as king
- God put him in the places He wanted David to ready him for the next assignment
- It’s in the little things and lonely places that we prove ourselves capable of big things
- God’s not in a hurry – He will take whatever time it takes to develop your character

Use skill to humbly serve (v.23)

- Even the person he was replacing!
- God was still at work – putting him in the place to learn leadership and prepare him for politics and running the Kingdom

Questions for Discussion:

1. Name two ways that our culture worships stature (see 1 Sam 10.23 for Saul). What is the most prominent way you personally have seen someone you know focus on stature? What was / is the outcome? How did it affect relationships, financial decisions, job moves, etc.?
2. The sermon listed 4 problems that can hide under stature (from 1 Sam. 15.7-30): arrogance, blame-shifting, latent insecurity, and the fear of man. Where have you seen these evils at work in people of stature in your life? Where have you seen them at work in your own life?
3. The sermon identified the biggest problem with stature as its ability to serve as a substitute for or distraction from focus on the heart. Reread 1 Sam 16.1-13. Even Samuel the prophet trusted his eyes more than God. Where have you seen that tendency in your own life? In how you relate to others (spouses, kids, etc.)?
4. When you hear the phrase, “There is power in music,” what song immediately comes to mind? Why? How is this inherent power used well in church? (cf. Prov. 25.20)
5. Reread 1 Sam. 16.19-23. How do you think David waited so well? Why do you think he served well the very one he was to replace? Where do you need to apply that this week?