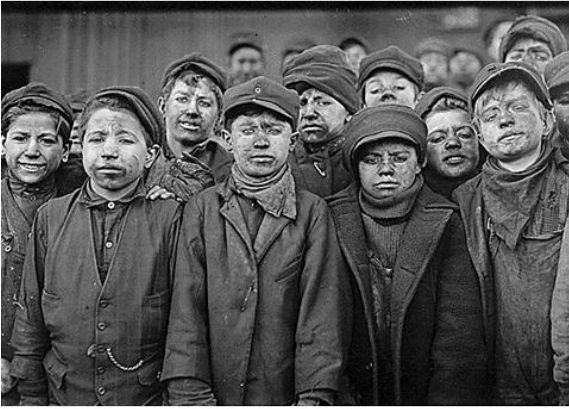
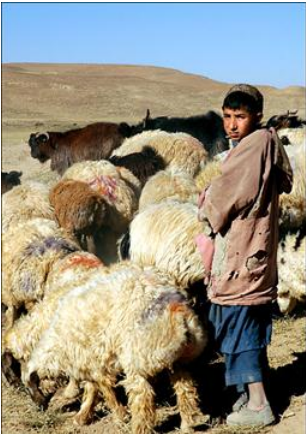


It hasn't always been this way:



- We live in a time when children are valued, and it's because of the value that we now place on children that we celebrate days for mothers and fathers – it was right around the time that adults were working to help children (schooling instead of having to work, etc.) that the idea of parenting became more valuable and recognized too – parents sacrificing for kids
- What seems like second nature now hasn't always been that way – in fact, throughout history and even in some other cultures still today it is very different – where children are a means to an end, a retirement plan, a way to see your name or your clan continue, a furthering to being able to wage war

David's story:



- “We know more about David than any other person in Holy Scripture” –Peterson, Leap Over /Wall, p.3
- “We're never more alive than when we're dealing with God... David deals with God. As an instance of humanity in himself, he isn't much. He has little wisdom to pass on to us on how to live successfully. He was an unfortunate parent and an unfaithful husband. From a purely historical point of view he was a barbaric chieftain with a talent for poetry. But David's importance isn't in his morality or his military prowess but in his experience of and witness to God. Every event in his life was a confrontation with God” (Leap, 5)
- David – the youngest, out in the fields – born in a time of war, of constant threat, when your family, your clan, your tribe mattered more than your nation – Iron Age – talk about where he was born – near Bethlehem, about eight clicks south of Jerusalem, which at that time was a foreign city – Bethlehem was right on the edge of nothing, of hostile territory, in the historic holdings of the tribe of Judah

Tell the story – David’s anointing (background of Saul – Samuel’s first choice has flamed out) – read through the text

Read/explain text: I Samuel 16:1-13 (NLT)

Now the Lord said to Samuel, “You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king.” But Samuel asked, “How can I do that? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.” “Take a heifer with you,” the Lord replied, “and say that you have come to make a sacrifice to the Lord. Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you which of his sons to anoint for me.”

- “I have seen me among his sons a king” – the whole story is about seeing and not seeing
- Samuel, along with his grief at the choosing and failure of Saul, is politically in a corner – Saul knows he’s the kingmaker, and no doubt has people watching him
- God gives him a cover story – go for a religious purpose, a legal purpose, have a festival in that small town, and then do what you need to do

So Samuel did as the Lord instructed. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town came trembling to meet him. “What’s wrong?” they asked. “Do you come in peace?” “Yes,” Samuel replied. “I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Purify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” Then Samuel performed the purification rite for Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice, too.

- Where Samuel goes, controversy goes – that’s his reputation – and the people of Bethlehem know it – they’ve seen Saul in action, they’ve seen Samuel in action, and they want no part of either

When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, “Surely this is the Lord’s anointed!” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Don’t judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” Then Jesse told his son Abinadab to step forward and walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “This is not the one the Lord has chosen.” Next Jesse summoned Shimea, but Samuel said, “Neither is this the one the Lord has chosen.” In the same way all seven of Jesse’s sons were presented to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.”

- As soon as Samuel sees Eliab, he figures he can pack it in, that they’re done – he hasn’t learned his lesson, and God makes that clear by using the same language of rejection that he did for King Saul
- The idea that Samuel hears from God well (as his name suggests), but doesn’t SEE well – even though he is supposed to be a “seer” – as he looks at each of Jesse’s boys in turn he sees with his own eyes, his own perspective, what he wants to see – surely this one, or surely that one – but God is the one who sees clearly - HIS perspective is true and accurate

Then Samuel asked, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse replied. “But he’s out in the fields watching the sheep and goats.” “Send for him at once,” Samuel said. “We will not sit down to eat until he arrives.”

- “By his sheer youth, he has been excluded from consideration, as a kind of male Cinderella left to his domestic chores instead of being invited to the party” – Robert Alter, The David Story, p.97
- “Because David was out of the way and mostly ignored as he tended the sheep, nobody had thought to bring him to Bethlehem that day. Yet David was chosen. Chosen and anointed. Chosen not for what anybody saw in him – not his father, his brothers, not even Samuel – but because of what God saw in him. And then chosen and anointed by God through Samuel to live in God’s glory” (Leap, 17)

So Jesse sent for him. He was dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes. And the Lord said, “This is the one; anoint him.” So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David from that day on. Then Samuel returned to Ramah. I Samuel 16:1-13, NLT

- “dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes” – literally, the Bible says that he was good-looking – but he’s the runt, too, the youngest in the family – the *haqqaton* – David = “Beloved”
- David has this magnetic effect on people, both men and women – they see something in his eyes, a spark
- Samuel pours the oil over David – shockingly to everyone there – and it’s a visual demonstration of the presence and choosing of God – a symbolic act of king-making
- The artwork used in the slide illustrates – you have Jesse’s whole extended family, including the families of the older sons – in the middle of a festival – it’s chaos and yet in the middle of it, out comes this oil, which no-one even knows that Samuel has with him
- Before anyone can really put the pieces together, Samuel is gone, and David’s still dripping with oil with a million questions – but they are left with the realization that something very important has happened in their midst that day
- David doesn’t get treated much differently by his family from that point on, but his entire perspective changes, and God’s presence is now a close reality in his life
- “David” – means “beloved”
- However, as you read the stories of the Old Testament, you find that God has a thing for reversing the birth order – in a culture that felt that to be the firstborn mattered most, you have Jacob chosen over Esau, Isaac over Ishmael, Moses over Aaron, and on and on

David – power or empowerment?

- David – some tell his story as what happens when you want power, and then you get it, as to what it does to you – but there’s another way to read the choices that he makes throughout his life, and that starts here – he is anointed by Samuel – and whether or not anyone else realizes it that day, HE does – that He is to be King, and the Spirit of the Lord comes on him (literally, rushes on him) – so if anything, as he makes his choices from this point on, he does it in the confidence that he is the one that God has chosen – that ultimately, he can trust God to place him in leadership BUT he can also go through the “doors” that come in his life with confidence



- Talk about the Korea's Got Talent video – the passion that David had, that he brought to his life – that was what set him apart, the spark in his eye, his willingness to live with passion, to do whatever he did “all out” – no-one expected him to be much, the youngest of a family in a far-off place – but he had that spark, and God turned that spark into anointing with the companionship and transformation of His very Presence in his life
- “Looks, indeed, can be deceiving, and often are. Samuel needs help in learning to see God’s perspective regarding David. Likewise, we need a God-perspective in order to overcome our biases. We often fail to see the God-potential in others (or in ourselves) because we are easily impressed by the wrong indicators. David, who will become the ideal anointed figure, is an unassuming sort when we first meet him. He would not have naturally attracted attention as a potential saviour of his people. He is too young, too inexperienced, and too insignificant in his family’s birth order.” – Arnold, 1&2 Samuel, p.233)

David and Jesus

- the son of David – the one following in David’s footsteps as well as someone directly descended from King David – living the same way – empowered by God, led by God, following a tremendous destiny and teaching others to do the same
- The word used in Hebrew for someone who is anointed is *mashiach* – *messiah* – and when we think about Christmas, that’s the word we hear used for another great king – Jesus, who comes and is called God’s anointed, God’s chosen one
- In fact, over and over again Jesus is called “Son of David” – the people of his day wanted another leader that would be just like David – and Jesus is the direct descendant of David, born in the same place that David was, David’s boyhood home Bethlehem
- “That designation isn’t an incidental detail of genealogy but a major item of theology – that is, it’s about *God*. The David story anticipates the Jesus story. The Jesus story presupposes the David story. David. Why David? There are several strands that make up the answer, but prominent among them is David’s earthiness. He’s so emphatically human. David fighting, praying, loving, sinning. David conditioned by the morals and assumptions of a brutal Iron Age culture. David with his eight wives. David angry; David devious; David generous; David dancing.” (Leap 9)

Destiny and success

- If we have the confidence that comes with having God in our lives, with knowing that our lives have been dedicated to God, then we can live with that confidence and walk through doors and not fret when things are tough – in short, we can walk by faith and really LIVE
- We look around us and we see others who seem to have all the advantages – they come from wealthy families, or they got the good looks, or the brains, or lucked into a great job because of someone they knew or they were related to – or that have great kids or a beautiful home or whatever
- And envy gets hold of us and won't let go – it poisons our perspective, our “see-ing” on everything that God has given us (like Samuel, we don't “see” well)
- David was the very last one – the one they only trusted with the sheep when the rest weren't available – and yet he was the one that God chose to make something from
- Knowing that God is with you – what does that mean? How does it affect what you do? How you live? Do you need to change your definition of success, based on the life of the Son of David?

Key Thought:

TAKE IT HOME:

God still chooses the unlikely for His greatness based on the direction of their hearts.

But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans... Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise.



And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.
I Corinthians 1:24-29, NLT

God still chooses the unlikely for His greatness based on the direction of their hearts.

But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength. Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God. **I Corinthians 1:24-29, NLT**

Conclusion: To Fathers



- Good for you for being in church this morning – because on any given Sunday morning across North America, there are more moms than dads in church – but not only are you giving your kids a terrific example and helping to give them a foundation of faith in their lives, not only are you supporting your wife, but you are taking responsibility for your spiritual and personal growth and giving God a chance to work in your life – going to church doesn't make you a Christian, but it does put you in a place to hear from God
- Ever feel that you weren't up to the task? Ever felt like others felt that way? David knew he had a destiny, but he also knew that no-one else believed in him but God – but God was enough for David because of the trust level he placed in God and in no-one else
- God has uniquely chosen you to be the father to your children – uniquely – whether you chose them or received them – He has set everything up well in advance – God has wrapped their destiny in yours because He would stand for no-one else to be their father, at all

Response: praying like David

- Reading Psalm 139 together – a different person read each screen on behalf of everyone