

HOW GOD MEASURES A MAN ?

Samuel assumed Jesse's firstborn would be God's chosen. Eliab was a fine, strapping specimen of a man. But that's what they said about Saul. Everyone was impressed by his *height and handsome* appearance.

The Lord rescues Samuel from his shallow way of thinking, and reminds him in verse 7, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

God has a unique interview process. When he evaluates someone He cuts right to the core of their heart. He rips off the veneer and facade. Image, stature, wardrobe, physical attractiveness, pious posturing never factor into His analysis. God looks straight passed the appearance, and He focuses on the heart.

When God sizes a person up He puts the tape measure not around the brain, or theiceps, or the waistline - but around the heart.

In one of the Arthur Conan Doyle novels, Sherlock Holmes makes the statement, "The most attractive woman I ever knew was hanged for poisoning three little children for their insurance money." So much for good looks.

In the book "*The Faces of Greatness*", photographer Yousuf Karsh, shot the faces of 90 famous people. Of the 90 people, 70 faces had noticeable blemishes - 35 had moles or warts - 13 had numerous freckles or liver spots - 20 had obvious acne, or other pimples - and 2 had highly visible scars. Yet, each one of those 70 people overcame a flawed appearance by a possessing a courageous heart.

God doesn't care about a person's appearance... *and neither should we*. The color of skin, or cost of clothes, or cut of hair makes no difference to God. If a guy comes into our church with a purple mohawk, a facial tattoo, and a hardware store full of body-piercings let's not sit back with folded arms and a judgmental attitude. Let's reach out in love, and look beyond their outward appearance to their heart.

Let's not forget our job is to represent God, not our own bias and preference. Sometimes God uses people who don't fit the mold, or look the part, just to remind us that His qualifications and requirements are different than ours.

I'll never forget the night I made a hospital call on my motorcycle. I even parked it in the clergy parking lot. The attendant couldn't believe a pastor would wear a black jacket, and ride a motorcycle. She was looking at the outward appearance. That's how man judges, but God looks deeper - at the heart.

This is why Samuel rejects Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah, and four more of Jesse's boys. Finally he asks in verse 11, "Are all the young men here?" Jesse replies, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." God chooses the runt of the litter - everybody's kid brother - the caboose of the family! God rejects a lineup of Wallys, and chooses the Beav.

We're told in verse 12, "So (Jesse) sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy (he probably had zits, and a few acne scars), with bright eyes (possibly blue-eyes - unusual for a Jew), and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" And in verse 13, Samuel did so.

Who would've chosen an adolescent, blue-eyed Jew to be king over Israel? If ever there was a person who didn't look the part it was David. Yet history tells us, David became a mighty man of God, and Israel's most prolific king. It's ironic, Saul looked like a king, but had a peasant's heart. David looked like a peasant, but had a kingly heart. *What'cha see is not always what'cha get!*

Church history is full of examples of men used greatly by God who were initially passed over by mission boards and pulpit committees. They lacked training, and experience, and credentials - but God saw in them the intangibles. God saw qualities the gift inventories and the psychological exams didn't measure.

DAVID AND GOLIATH

In a campaign of daily intimidation the Philistines send out their most ferocious warrior – all 9 feet, 9 inches of him. Goliath was covered with a scaled body armor which weighed 150 pounds. He also carried a huge spear – the head alone weighed 20 pounds. It took another man to carry his colossal shield. Goliath was a powerful man, and in his wake lay scores of brave warriors now slain.

Goliath not only had size, he also had a mouth. He could talk smack! He defies the armies of Israel. One extrabiblical source, the Targum of Jonathan, claims he boasted of being the Philistine who killed the sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas – and drug the Ark to the temple of Dagon. He claimed to have killed countless Hebrews. Apparently, Goliath was the Philistine counterpart of Samson.

Goliath was “a giant of a man” – if he really was a man. The word “giants” is the Hebrew word “*nephilim*” - used in Genesis 6 for the offspring of the *sons of God*, and the *daughters of men*. In the Old Testament the term “*sons of God*” was used for angels – and it’s possible that fallen angels, or demons, had taken human form, and had sexual relations with women on earth. Jude calls them, “the angels who did not keep their proper domain”. The reason for the flood could’ve been to wipe out this widespread perversion of humanity.

Apparently though, isolated outbreaks of the same perversion also occurred later in Palestine. In Joshua 14 Caleb fought the sons of Anak – who Numbers 13 says were related to the nephilim. If all this is true, Goliath is more an agent of Satan, and enemy of God, than we assume. This encounter in the Valley of Elah is really a spiritual showdown between the forces of Satan, and the power of God.

In his taunts Goliath suggests a form of surrogate warfare. In ancient battles even a winning army suffered heavy casualties. Rather than entire armies entering the fray it made sense to pair off two champions, and let them fight it out on behalf of their respective armies.

But who wants to fight a giant? In verse 24 we’re told whenever the men of Israel saw him they, “fled from him and were dreadfully afraid.”

Saul even sweetens the pot. Here’s what he promises for Goliath’s head – great riches - his daughter in marriage, and the advantages that come with being a member of the royal family – and perhaps the most attractive perk of all, a lifetime tax exemption for the champion and his extended family. Yet still no one is courageous enough to step out of the crowd and fight with Goliath.

That is until David hears the giant’s taunts. In verse 26 he says to the soldiers standing around him, “For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?” David knows God’s honor is at stake. He fights not for Saul’s reward, but for the glory of the God he loved.

When Saul hears he has a willing warrior he interviews him, and when he sees he’s just a kid he scoffs. Verse 33, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.”

David though recounts some of his own victories. He protected his father’s flocks from the mouth of hungry lions and bears – what’s the difference between a bear and a big-mouthed Philistine? David reveals where his confidence lies in verse 37, “The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”

Saul tries to outfit David in his own armor, but it doesn’t fit. The man of faith doesn’t get to the point of battle to suddenly adopt worldly techniques and tactics. He fights with what comes natural – with what he’s tested in the past, and knows God uses. He fights with *simple weapons and solid faith*. A stone in the hand of faith is far more powerful than a king’s armor on the back of unbelief.

You all know the governor now in the state of Minnesota is a former pro wrestler, Jesse “the Body” Ventura. I saw a car the other day with Minnesota license plates. It had a bumper sticker that read, “My governor can whip your governor.” Well, if Georgia went to war with Minnesota we wouldn’t want the two governors to square off on behalf of their respective states. Roy Barnes would get killed.

That’s how Israel felt when they saw a shepherd boy – armed only with faith, sling, and stone – going to fight the mighty Goliath. They must’ve been embarrassed, and thought, “*how foolish? This is certain suicide. Pity the boy’s parents.*” They might’ve even closed their eyes.

David walked down the mountain to the brook, and he picked up 5 smooth stones. Why 5? We learn in 2 Samuel 21 that Goliath had 4 brothers, and David wanted to be ready for all four.

In verse 43 Goliath laughs at David, and “cursed David by his gods”. One commentator suggest that when he lifted his head to his gods his helmet fell off, giving David a clear shot at his forehead.

In verses 45-47, David utters his declaration of faith, then reaches into his bag for a stone, twirled it in his sling, slung it through the air – and at that point I believe God took over the trajectory of the rock. He insured its landing right between the two eyeballs David had looked into so squarely.

Goliath didn’t know what hit him. Verse 49, “the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face.” David reached for his sword – it probably took both his hands, and all his might, to pick it up. He chopped off Goliath’s head. The camp of Israel was supercharged by David’s victory. The Philistines were delated. David had definitely gotten Israel a *head*. And a Hebrew rout was on.

WORSHIP & WARFARE

1 Samuel 16:14 tells us, “the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.” God removed the spiritual hedge that protects a saint, and Saul became oppressed by a demon.

It’s interesting though how this distressing spirit was corralled. Saul’s advisors look for a skillful musician who can play the praise of God. They know that praise and worship can drive out the evil spirit that torments the spirit and mind of Saul.

One author writes, “Satan is allergic to praise, so where there is massive, triumphant praise, Satan is paralyzed, bound, and banished.” In the ears of Satan our praise is like the sound of fingernails clawing a chalkboard. When we worship God it grates at him, and causes him to cover his pointed-ears, and flee.

We don’t usually think *worship and warfare* go together, but they do.

Praise reminds Satan of his inferiority and the folly of his insurrection. When we glorify God, Satan must either stop the praise, or drop his diabolical work, and run.

This was what happened when Saul went into one of his funks, and David began to praise the Lord. We’re told in verse 23, “Whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart...”

On occasion a emotional cloud will roll in on me like a sudden summer storm. I’ve learned to recognize such moods as spiritual attacks, and a sure cure against them is to stop what you’re doing, and spend some time worshipping the Lord. When you do the cloud will roll out as quickly as it rolled in. *Praise is powerful!*

A MOTLEY CREW

In 1 Samuel 22 certain men gather around David. Verse 2, "And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him."

These men flock to David at the cave of Adullam - which was a stronghold in the Valley of Elah - near the site David slew Goliath.

What a motley crew - a bunch of misfits - the distressed, the debtors, the discontented. It sounds like Calvary Chapel Stone Mountain, doesn't it?

This is what's also happened to the son of David. Jesus has reached out in love and acceptance to the down and outers - the outcasts - the disenfranchised of society. You and I have a fresh start - a new identity in Christ.

David's 400 men are really a beautiful type of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Devotion Box - The Power of a Friend

In 1 Samuel 23 Saul chases David into the Wilderness of Ziph, just west of the Dead Sea. And there the Lord sends David some needed encouragement.

Jonathan pays him a visit, and in verse 16 we're told Jonathan "strengthened his hand in God." Oh, the power of a friendship. "Friends double our joys and divide our grief."

There've been so many times in my life when I've been down and discouraged, that God has been faithful to send a friend across my path to pick me up.

Think of a person, and a way, where you can demonstrate the power of friendship.

Devotion Box - The Danger of Jealousy

1 Samuel 18:8, "Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, 'They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?' So Saul eyed David from that day forward." Beware of jealousy.

FB Meyer warns us, "Jealousy is one of the worst temptations that can beset us. It arises in the most unexpected ways and times. When everyone around us is possessed by a common joy, it steals in like a ghost and settles down on some heart, which it scourges with whips of fury. Resist its first entrance!" While I should be glorifying God, I can notice the work wasn't done through me. But, if it's God's work, then the vessel deserves no credit anyway. Why should it be envied? How has jealousy infiltrated your heart?

A SAVE IN THE CAVE

In chapter 24 David takes refuge at En Gedi on the west bank of the Dead Sea. En Gedi is an oasis in the desert. It's a source of fresh water, adorned with palm trees, bulrushes blowing in the breeze, waterfalls, and abundant wildlife. It's a gorgeous place. And there're numerous large caves to hide in around En Gedi.

That's where David was - hiding in a cave - when Saul stops for a potty break.

David's men can't believe it! Saul is just a few yards away. He can't see them the cave is too dark. God has delivered him into their hands. This is an opportunity to rid themselves of their enemy.

Saul's grunts drown out the whispers in verse 4. His men tell David, "This is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand...'" They want David to go for the kill.

David though is content to slip up behind Saul, and cut off a piece of his robe. He holds it up later to prove to Saul that he could've killed him, but didn't. Instead, as he explained to his men in verse 6, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD."

If David wants men to respect his appointment to the throne, then he needs to set the example, and respect the appointment of Saul. David believed God installed Saul as king, thus only God could remove him.

Guys, so often in our battles with wickedness we as Christians behave no better than the people we oppose. A good cause doesn't justify wicked tactics. I'm certainly pro-life, but when the pro-life advocate threatens the life of an abortionist they contradict our message. They become no better than the person we oppose.

As believers we don't fight fire with fire. As Romans 12:21 tells us, "Overcome evil with good." We need to fight wickedness without stooping to wickedness.

It amazes me that David didn't do to Saul, what I'm sure Saul would've done to him. Earlier in 1 Samuel when David survived the near-miss of Saul's spear, he could've pulled the spear out of the wall and chunked it back. But this was not an uncircumcised Philistine - it was the anointed of the Lord.

Guys, David was a man motivated by principle rather than expediency, and convenience, and popularity.

Saul was an externally-motivated person. His actions were always reactions to his circumstances and the opinions of others.

David was the opposite. He was an internally-motivated person. His actions were proactive - based on principle, conviction, wisdom, and the will of God.

Saul was governed by his insecurities. When he lacked power he was afraid to assume it - when he possessed it he was afraid of losing it to David. David though, found his security in God. He was motivated by faith, not fear. We need to be a David, not a Saul

If you have questions on tonight's study email Pastor Sandy - sandyadams@calvarychapel.org

Calvary Chapel Announcements - February 27, 2000

Next Bible Scan- March 5 - 2 Samuel 1-10

Tuesday, February 29th: Ladies Morning Bible Study will not meet

Ladies Evening Bible Study will meet at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 1st: High School Youth (Acts 2) 7:00 p.m.

Café: Bible Study by Pastor Randy Special Music by Sean McAuley 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 3rd: Horizons (Meets at the home of Steve Lee) 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 4th: Crossroads (Meets at the home of David & Denise Brown) 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 5th: 9:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. Worship and Bible Study & BIBLE BLAST!

Good Friday Walk-Through Information Meeting for all youth grades 1st - 12th that would like to participate in our walk through presentation. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 12:45 p.m.

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." - 1 Samuel 16:7

**Bible Scan
Memory Verse**

Devotion Box - The Discipline of Loneliness

In 1 Samuel 29 David returns to Ziklag to find that the Amalekites have burned it to the ground, and taken the woman captive. This is David's low point. We're told in 30:6, "Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters." David's not only mourning the loss of his own family he has a mutiny on his hands. They're plotting his assassination. He's got troubles.

At earlier points when David was down God sent people to encourage him. Gad at Adullam. Jonathan while he was in the wilderness of Ziph. Abigail as he was journeying to Maon. But no one comes to encourage David at Ziklag.

Guys, there are times when God cuts us off from the support of friends and family to force us to depend solely on Him. Through the discipline of loneliness God teaches us that He alone is faithful to meet our needs. When David's friends abandoned him we're told, "(he) strengthened himself in the LORD his God."

Devotion Box - Married to a Scoundrel ?

The name "Nabal" means "scoundrel". He insults David, and denies his men any provision. David is ready to strap on the sword, when Nabal's wife, Abigail, comes out to intercede. Abigail was a beautiful woman married to a rich Scoundrel. Abigail was a believer married to an unbeliever.

Perhaps you're a believer in Jesus married to a Nabal. Well, maybe your spouse is not a scoundrel like Nabal, but they're still an unbeliever, and you want out. There's a country song with the lyrics, "I don't want no more of the cheese, I just want out of the trap." Maybe that's how you feel about your marriage.

But you need to learn a lesson from Abigail. Rather than feel *stuck with your spouse*. She did two things: *she stuck by him, and stuck up for him*. In the end, her life with Nabal was responsible for forming the woman that David admired.

Let me suggest if you're married to a Nabal God will use your marriage to mold you into an Abigail. One day, you'll be carried to the palace by the son of David, Jesus Christ. For now, God is using your experience to form a beauty He desires.

BEWITCHED

In 15:23 Samuel warned Saul, "rebellion was as the sin of witchcraft." At the time Saul would've never thought of turning to a witch. 1 Samuel 28:2 says earlier in his reign Saul banished the occultists from Israel. Yet, because Saul persisted in his rebellion, and drew further and further from God, in the end God was no longer there, and Saul turned to Satan for help.

The king disguises himself, and goes to the witch at Endor. He asks her to conduct a séance, and conjure up Samuel from the dead. Before she even launches into her incantations she sees Samuel. This is not her doing. God is at work. We're told in verse 12, "When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman spoke to Saul, saying, "Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul!"

Phillip Keller writes of the witch's reaction, "In terror she screamed... This was not the usual weird apparition that came to her otherwise beclouded mind and deluded spirit. This was an act of the living Lord." Samuel actually appeared.

Notice though when the witch sees Samuel she's frightened. I believe what scared her was the reality of the phenomena. Normally the séance was a farce, or a demon appeared. I believe this is the one time when an actual human showed up. God sent Samuel.