

David: Obscurity in a Family

1 Samuel 16:1-15

Rejection is a part of life, and Christians are called to respond to rejection differently than the rest of the world. As we study the life of David, we discover he faced incredible rejection, but rather than responding in anger or bitterness, David responded with faithfulness and trusted God's plan for his life.

Read: 1 Sam 16.7,10-12 OR Psalm 27.7-10

The Truth is...

- **We've all experienced rejection** on some level, and it has a special way of shaking us up - **Ex:** rejected in **romance**, in **friendship**, in an **organization**, in **school**, in **work**, in **family**. Sometimes rejection shakes us up, it tears us down, it can crush our souls.
- Whenever we experience rejection, we tend to ask a question that begins with "**What's wrong with... him/her/them/me?**" Or "**Why didn't I get... job/girlfriend/grade?**"
 - **Is that how Christians should respond to rejection?** If not... how?

This semester...

- We're on a journey through the **life of David**, looking through snapshots of his life, studying his **stories** and his **Psalms**. Our goal in this journey is to see what made him a "**man after God's own heart**" because I want to have that heart. And because I want you to have that heart.
- Last week, we saw that David was a man who understood the extent of his sin. And **in light of sin, he loved Grace** – a quality God always wants in His people. A quality that made David a man after God's own heart.

This morning...

- We're not looking at David's **response to Sin and Grace**. We're looking at the beginning of David's story, and **his Response to Rejection**.

The Setup

- **Read: 1 Sam 16.1** - We start with Samuel who is **sad about Saul**, who was the current king of Israel. Samuel was sad because Saul was a terrible king who couldn't obey God, so Samuel kept cleaning up after his messes. **Most recently, Agag...**
- **Read: 1 Sam 15.32-33 – Hardcore**, right? But as awesome as Samuel's action movie one-liner was, it was the product of huge sin, so Saul is officially rejected by God.
- **Read: 1 Sam 16.2-5** – Thus, God gives Samuel a secret mission to crown the next king in Bethlehem, which **freaked out the village** a bit, but brought Samuel to Jesse

The Selection

- **Read: 1 Sam 16.6** – Samuel immediately likes Eliab for the job
- **Read: 1 Sam 16.7** – But God says "no" because He's judging based on the man's heart, not his appearance. In fact, we get to see Eliab's heart next week, and it's bad
- **Read: 1 Sam 16.8 -11** – God proceeds to reject every son until Samuel has to ask the super **awkward question**: "Do you have any OTHER sons?" At which point Jesse says "Technically... yes." – David was Rejected by his Family (literally: "smallest")

The Solution

- **Read: 1 Sam 16.12 – In the midst of Rejection, David was Selected by God**
 - Now, if this was a proper underdog tale, David would now embark upon his **great adventure**
 - If so, our lesson would be "If you're rejected, there's something wrong with them! **Just wait until everyone sees how great you are!**" But that's not the lesson because that's not what

happened to David.

- **Read: 1 Sam 16.19** – Saul is in the midst of going crazy due to his sin, so he needs some **music to chill him out**. He hears about a really good musician named David... who was where?
 - **David was WITH THE SHEEP** because right after Samuel anointed him as the next king of Israel chosen by God Himself, **he went back to his day job**. Why?
 - Because Samuel didn't start David's grand adventure! Samuel left, and David's family went **right back to Rejecting him**
- In fact, it would take **at least 15yrs** after David's anointing before he would become king. He's going to face a lot more rejection this semester. **So how does he respond?**
 - We want him to Respond the way we'd want to Respond – big and flashy!
 - **Ex: Dancing Job Quit or Quitting Ray-Ray**
- **But instead... David Responded to Rejection with Faithfulness.** How can I be so sure? Because he was **WITH THE SHEEP**
 - We see David Respond to Rejection by being **Faithful with what he HAD been given** because **he trusted that God** was working through the Rejection
 - **Bible Ex:** The truth is, God loves to work through people who have been Rejected, which is why our Biblical heroes are **fishermen** and **prostitutes** and **widows** and **orphans**. It's why eternal life is possible thanks to the **Rejection experienced by Jesus Christ**

App – If I feel rejected or overlooked in life, I don't respond by asking “**What's wrong with...**” or “**Why didn't I get...**” but **instead I ask “What do I have? What has God given me?”**

- **God has selected us!** He calls us to be **faithful where we are...** it's hard, but is a quality that God wants in his people. One that made David after God's own heart.
 - Like David, we should **respond to rejection by being faithful and trusting God's greater plan** for our lives (Luke 17) – **Beware Delusions of Grandeur**
 - **Ex: Dr. Orr working as a janitor for 3yrs** – says he wishes every seminary graduate had to spend 3yrs as a janitor
 - **Ex: GBC Dallas - Sunday school** policy for DTS students
- And as you're faithful, remember...
 - **God's solutions are often strange and simple, so be Open**
 - **God's promotions are usually sudden and surprising, so be Ready**
 - **God's selections are always sovereign and sure, so be Sensitive**
“Our calling is to be faithful in the demanding tasks, whether that is our education, our marriage, our occupation, or just the daily grind of life. That's the kind of men and women God wants to use.” – Charles Swindoll

Callback Ex: I got **rejected from BCA**. But I knew God called me to serve somewhere, so I got more involved in **youth ministry at Grace**.

- JH guy needed someone to help **run JH special events**, so I did it. (**Open**)
- I became a leader and my grade needed someone to **lead a bunch of dudes from the basketball team** who didn't know who Adam & Eve were, so I did it. (**Ready**)
- I came on staff and Grace needed someone to **run all the JH stuff**, so I did it. Grace needed someone to go **take over Southwood youth**, so I did it. (**Sensitive**)

1 Samuel 16:1-13, (ESV)

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” **2** And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ **3** And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you.” **4** Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” **5** And he said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. **6** When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord's anointed is before him.” **7** But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” **8** Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” **9** Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” **10** And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen these.” **11** Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.” **12** And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.” **13** Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

Psalm 27:7-10, (ESV)

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!
8 You have said, “Seek my face.”
My heart says to you,
“Your face, Lord, do I seek.”
9 Hide not your face from me.
Turn not your servant away in anger,
O you who have been my help.
Cast me not off; forsake me not,
O God of my salvation!
10 For my father and my mother have forsaken me,
but the Lord will take me in.

1 Samuel 15:32-33, (ESV)

Then Samuel said, “Bring here to me Agag the king of the Amalekites.” And Agag came to him cheerfully. Agag said, “Surely the bitterness of death is past.” **33** And Samuel said, “As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women.” And Samuel hacked Agag to pieces before the Lord in Gilgal.

1 Samuel 16:19, (ESV)

Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, “Send me David your son, who is with the sheep.”