



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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The Unexpected and Overlooked

Focus Verse: 1 Samuel 16:7 - But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Lesson Text: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Truth About God: God uses those the world overlooks.

Truth For My Life: I will trust God when He works in unexpected ways.

Often the unknown, the unheralded, and the overlooked have played significant roles throughout history, and certainly in God's kingdom. Our King looks beyond what humanity sees to see the potential for our lives to make an impact. **While we often present excuses for why our background, family, or challenges make it impossible for us to do anything great for God, He looks beyond those obstacles to call us to what His grace can accomplish in and through us.**

God's design was not for Israel to have a mortal king. The only Sovereign to whom they were to bow was God Himself. Israel's King intended to direct Israel's affairs through the voices of prophets and priests, not through the dictates of a crowned ruler. But Israel was distracted by the governmental patterns of the surrounding nations. They began to demand they too be allowed a man sitting on a natural throne. God acquiesced and provided them a king, though that choice would in time prove to bring great heartache to Israel. Saul's failures were manifold, but ultimately his direct rejection of godly instructions brought about his downfall.

With the end of Saul's reign having been pronounced on him, the task of discerning God's will for his successor became paramount for Samuel. This decision had to be guided by God, as human perspective on this matter had already proven a failure. Saul had appeared to have every natural advantage, yet his leadership ended in such ruin that we routinely look to it today as an example of the pitfalls confronting a leader. Doing the will of God in the face of opposition can be rather intimidating. But when we have clear instructions, we must obey lest we risk the same rejection Saul received. **Our reverence for God's opinion of us should always overshadow our fear of what others might say.**

David was overlooked by everyone around him. When the second king of Israel was to be anointed from Jesse's household, no one in his family thought David would be the one to experience the anointing oil. Even the man of God had a hard time believing God's mantle would not fall on one of the more naturally obvious choices. *"And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he. Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward"* (1 Samuel 16:12-13). But God chose David. And now He chooses you. There was no ambiguity in God's next instruction, nor any questions left in Samuel's heart. The one others forgot and discounted was elevated by God to the ultimate prominence in Israel.

We serve in God's kingdom and for His pleasure, not for ours. Our ideas, will, comfort, and pleasure are not at all significant. While we might have our own conceptions of how God's work should unfold, those hardly matter at all. God alone decides, and He can and will do as he pleases. We must recognize and accept the truth of Psalm 75:7: *"But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another."*

It is truly amazing what an **"ordinary"** individual can do when guided by principles. God can take a common person and change the course of a family, a church, or a nation. The accounts would be more numerous than we could recount of how an ordinary man or woman answering God's call to a city or a country brought profound revival to thousands of broken lives. One who was otherwise on the far side of some hill tending sheep and fighting off lions and bears in unseen battles suddenly felt the oil of God's anointing running off his head.

God has big plans for you. He has not designed you for ordinary. He has created you and saved you for something more. Others may not see it. At times you may doubt it yourself. Still, you have a bright destiny. Go ahead, David. **Keep your heart right so God may see it and exalt you in due time.**