

July 19th 2009: Series on David 1: "An Unexpected Choice" 1 Sam 16:1-13

Those of you who have grieved deeply and long...over someone or.....
will know just how much grief....can at times take over your life (speaking to someone)

At the start of 1 Sam 16.....we find Samuel grieving....and his grief is deep

You see.....Samuel was now old

He had been around for a long time

He had been a boy at that most terrible time for Israel....when Eli was judge

When the people....had turned from the worship of....to the worship of idols

When the ark of God was taken into battle.....

When as Judges 21:12 records:

In those days Israel had no king; everyone did what was right in his own sight

And although he had seen some reforms under.....**he truly rejoiced** on that day
when God had sent him to anoint Saul.....**And he dreamed** a dream then of

Now he grieved.....because that dream had been shattered...and God had rejected

and the intensity of that grief.....had aged Samuel....& caused him to become old & frail
A virtual prisoner of grief in his own home....**A servant** of God.....refraining from...

His grief itself was not wrong.....Indeed the Bible speaks of grief as good and healthy
But there is a time for moving on from grief.....**An** acceptance that life goes on...and that
there are parts for us to play....things for us to do....for God and in His strength.

And in 1 Sam 16:1 we find the Lord saying to Samuel.....That time for you is now:-

***"How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel?
Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem.
I have chosen one of his sons to be king."***

A new venture for Samuel.....A new dream.....A new risk

And one he is not too keen about.....until he gains assurance...safety...from the Lord

Then he goes on his mission to Bethlehem

Samuel is about to anoint a king...It is not his place to choose....**God** has already done
And as he journeys.....we can imagine him beginning to dream again....about this new

Surely he must be like Saul.....yet better.....Bigger.....stronger....more dependable
An obvious leader of men

So he comes to the family of Jesse.....**And** Jesse.....realising that something immense
 .is about to happen.....**Introduces**....His oldest son....**Eliab**.... to Samuel

And Samuel is impressed→ tall...strong...fine figure of a man.....Kingly material

& v6 says:

Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD."

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

How reassuring that is

If God's way of choosing....was like our way of choosing....**then** most of us would be in
 trouble

But God looks upon the heart

He saw the yearning within us to be His children

The desire to be forgiven.....

The understanding within us.....of our need for Him.....for His cleansing....His love

The readiness to humble ourselves under mighty hand....**Because** w/out Him...r nothing

And with great love....He drew us to Himself

Thankfully Samuel had learnt as a boy....to listen to the voice of the Lord

And as 6 more sons.....were brought before him.....he knew that none of them were

Yet he knew that God had chosen a son of....So he asked

Are these all the sons you Have?.....And Jesses responds...There is still...youngest

Think how foolish Jesse....must have felt later....when the son he had easily overlooked
Was the one God chose to be the future King

Indeed the whole family.....seemed to treat David with a certain amount of distain
At the time of the **Goliath** incident...Eliab was so angry with David because he was..
That he said to him in 1 Sam 17:28

"Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle."

That goes way beyond sibling rivalry

It's as though David had been weighed in.....and found wanting by his family
Put in a little box that said.....Too young....Too brash.....Too spiritual....
Unimportant.....Useless

Perhaps you've experienced that in your life

.....at home....school...work....CHURCH

Too old....too young....**Too fat**..... **To smart or**.....**Too loud or**.....**Too spiritual or**....

And it hurts....and it leaves scars.....**and I know** because Iv'e been there too
Not being invited>>>just like David.....**Not** being included.....but **Isolated & ignored**

The wonderful news is that God looks upon you and loves you.....**for** He sees your heart
-and He sees that place in your heart that He wants to fill more and more

Its interesting to note...that way back in 1 Sam 13:14.....when Saul had first gone against
Long before Samuel was sent to anoint David.....**Samuel** said to Saul:-

the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people,

Now that man was David.....but this verse doesn't mean that David was perfectly in tune
David had a long way to go when Samuel anointed him
Years before he became king.....**And along** the way He made some very serious errors

But it does mean that God saw in David's heart....**all** that David could become....
 ...as David would learn to open his heart and life more ...to God's searching...enabling
 cleansing and filling

And then God gave Him the one Person that would make it happen

Straight after.....anointed him with the oil of kingship....**Came** the anointing of the H. Spirit

God blesses us in the same way.....once we respond to His call....

For once we open our hearts to Him.....

He sends His Holy Spirit to dwell in us.....to transform us....to enable us

- **God desiresto see hearts that are growing in love**

In obedience....in ministry...in knowledge ...in faith.....

And that can only happen by the power of the Holy Spirit.....

But we must be open to that power....by choosing to live each day as his disciples

we are His precious instruments....the fruit of His love.....and in His plan for this world
 there is not one of us that does not have a part

But for that to happen our hearts must yearn to be His.....**Yearn** to be empowered
Yearn to be used.....**Yearn** to follow Him wherever He leads...whatever the cost

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 says:

²⁶Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are,

