



The Anointing of David

Kicking It Off:

Share about a time when you felt completely out of your element or comfort zone, but ended up learning something valuable from the experience.

Read:

1 Samuel
16:1-13

Summary

In this sermon, we explore the life of King David and glean important lessons about faith, surrender, and the heart of true devotion to God. David's success and importance lay not in his outward qualifications, but in his inward posture - he was a man after God's own heart, seeking to please and honor God above all else.

Through the story of David's anointing by Samuel, we see that God's perspective is often very different from our human viewpoint. While people look at external qualities like appearance, skill, and experience, God looks at the heart. He frequently chooses to work through those the world considers weak or unlikely in order to demonstrate His power. As believers, we are challenged to lay aside our own limited understanding and trust that God sees the bigger picture.

To follow God's leading in our lives, we must cultivate a listening ear and receptive heart, expecting God to speak to us. This requires learning to see people and situations through God's eyes, not judging by outward impressions. Jesus

criticized the religious leaders of His day for their hypocrisy in appearing righteous on the outside while inwardly harboring sin.

David's anointing also highlights the power of God's presence. The same Holy Spirit that empowered David is alive in every Christian, and our strength comes from Him, not our own abilities or numbers. Even when we feel weak or discouraged, we can stand firm in our identity as children of God, relying on His constant presence in the ups and downs of life.

Like David, we are called to trust God's sovereignty and goodness, even when facing challenges and opposition. By preaching truth to ourselves and remembering God's faithfulness, we learn to hold our dreams and plans with open hands, willing to go wherever God leads and minister to whomever He calls us to. This often means stepping outside our comfort zones, culturally and otherwise, to humbly depend on God's sufficiency rather than our own. Ultimately, the Christian life is about fully surrendering to our supernatural God and finding our deepest joy in living for His purposes.

Discussion Questions

1. In the sermon, we learned that God looks at the heart, not outward appearances. Samuel was surprised when God chose David, the youngest and least likely of Jesse's sons, to be the next king. Can you think of a time when God used someone unexpected in your life or in the Bible to accomplish His purposes? What does this teach us about God's ways?
2. The sermon emphasized that David's success was rooted in his wholehearted devotion to pleasing and honoring God. His heart was set on God above all else, not on human approval or opinions. In what areas of your life are you tempted to prioritize people's acceptance or expectations over God's? How can you cultivate a heart that is fully surrendered to God?
3. We saw how the Holy Spirit empowered David for his calling as king. As believers, we have that same Spirit living inside us, and our strength comes from Him, not our own abilities. Share about a time when you felt particularly weak or inadequate, but experienced God's power sustaining you. How does remembering the Holy Spirit's presence change your perspective in challenging situations?
4. The sermon challenged us to trust God's sovereignty and goodness, even in the midst of difficulties and opposition. David modeled this in the Psalms, choosing to preach truth to himself about God's faithfulness. What are some specific truths about God's character and promises that you need to remind yourself of when you're facing hard times? How does speaking these truths out loud help reshape your perspective?
5. We were encouraged to be open to God leading us outside our comfort zones, whether that means ministering to those different from us or being willing to follow wherever He calls. Is there a specific person or group of people you sense God may be asking you to reach out to, even though it feels uncomfortable? What steps of faith could you take this week to move towards obedience in this area?

Bible Passage

1 Samuel 16:1-13

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.

Outline

I. Introduction

- A. The importance of King David as a man after God's own heart
- B. David's success was rooted in his devotion to pleasing God above all else

II. God's Ways Are Not Our Ways

- A. Samuel's visit to Jesse's sons to anoint the next king
- B. God's perspective vs. human perspective in choosing David
- C. God often works through the weak and unlikely to demonstrate His power
- D. The need to set aside our own understanding and trust God's bigger picture
- E. Posturing ourselves to hear God's voice and follow His leading

III. The Power of God's Presence

- A. The significance of the Spirit of the Lord coming upon David at his anointing
- B. The same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus dwells in all believers
- C. Our power and effectiveness come from God's Spirit, not outward strengths or numbers
- D. Encouragement to rely on God's presence even when feeling weak or discouraged
- E. The reality of challenges in the Christian life, but the assurance of God's constant presence

IV. Trusting in God's Sovereignty

- A. Learning from David's example in the Psalms to trust God's sovereignty and love in difficult times
- B. Preaching truth to ourselves, remembering God's faithfulness and higher ways

- C. Holding our dreams and goals with open hands, submitting to God's better plan
- D. Applying this posture to evangelism, being willing to minister to those different from us
- E. Personal testimony of moving from cultural comfort to diverse ministry, learning to depend on God
- F. The value of missions in forcing us to rely on God's strength
- G. The call to humble reliance on God in all contexts, surrendering anything that hinders us

Notes

I believe that what made King David so important and successful was that he was a man after God's own heart. His heart was set on pleasing and honoring God above all else, not on the approval of people. He understood that human opinions are fickle and fleeting, but God's favor is what truly matters.

When the prophet Samuel went to anoint the next king from among Jesse's sons, God showed that His perspective is very different from ours. While humans look at outward qualities like strength, appearance and experience, God looks at the heart. He chose David, the youngest and least likely by human standards, because David's heart was fully devoted to Him.

I think this teaches us an important lesson - that God's ways are higher than our ways, and He often chooses to work through what the world considers weak or foolish in order to demonstrate His power. As a Christian, I have to be willing to set aside my own understanding at times and trust that God sees the bigger picture. If I want to hear God's voice and follow His leading in my life like Samuel did, I need to posture myself with an expectation that God wants to speak to me. Rather than just relying on my own reasoning and deduction to make decisions, I should cultivate a listening ear and a receptive heart. God is more than able to guide and direct me if I'm willing to tune into His voice.

I believe that as Christians, we need to learn to see people and situations the way God sees them, not just based on outward appearances. Jesus criticized the Pharisees for looking holy and righteous on the outside, but being full of hypocrisy and sin on the inside. Similarly, God chose David to be king, not because he looked the part, but because his heart was devoted to God.

What set David apart was that when he was anointed, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him. This is the same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead and that dwells in all believers today. Our power and effectiveness comes from God's Spirit in us, not from having a majority or outward strengths. So I shouldn't get discouraged if I feel weak or if Christianity seems to be losing

ground in society. God can work powerfully through a faithful minority. What matters is having a pure heart, not impressive numbers or abilities.

At the same time, I have to be realistic that the Christian life isn't problem-free, even with the Holy Spirit. David still went through many difficulties and emotional ups and downs. But through it all, God was with him. I can be confident that God is with me too, both in good times and bad. My identity and power come from His indwelling presence, not my circumstances. I believe that even when my circumstances look bleak and my enemies surround me, I need to trust in God's sovereignty and love. Like David in the Psalms, I should preach truth to myself, remembering that God is with me and has a good plan, even if I can't see it. His ways and thoughts are higher than mine.

So when I'm pursuing my dreams and goals, I have to hold them with open hands, recognizing that God may have something even better in mind that I can't imagine. Submitting to His will often means stepping outside my comfort zone and being willing to go wherever He leads.

I'm convicted that this applies to how I view evangelism too. It's easy for me to only reach out to people who are similar to me culturally and linguistically. But God may be calling me to minister to those very different from myself - the homeless, the addicted, the broken. Relying on God's power rather than my own abilities is key.

I've experienced this in my own life, as I've moved from ministering only to other Korean-Americans to now serving a diverse body. At first it was uncomfortable to be in a setting where I couldn't rely on cultural familiarity. But it's taught me to depend on God in new ways. I believe this is what God wants from all of us - humble reliance on Him.

Going overseas on missions is valuable because it forces us into situations beyond our own strength. But the same posture of saying "I need You, God" is what's needed, whether across the globe or in our own neighborhoods. Anything that blinds me to this reality is an idol I need to surrender. True life is found in fully submitting to our supernatural God.

The Unlikely King

1 Samuel 16:1-13

In the Bible, we often find God choosing the most unexpected individuals to fulfill His purposes. The story of David's anointing as king (1 Samuel 16:1-13) is a prime example of how God's ways are not always aligned with human expectations. This blog post will explore the lessons we can learn from this remarkable event and how it relates to our lives today.

In 1 Samuel 16, the prophet Samuel was tasked by God to anoint one of Jesse's sons as the future king of Israel. As Samuel observed the impressive physical stature and appearance of David's older brothers, he naturally assumed that one of them would be God's chosen king. However, God's response to Samuel's initial assessment is profound: "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7, NIV). This passage reveals a fundamental truth about God's perspective. While human beings often judge others based on external factors such as physical appearance, social status, or worldly accomplishments, God is concerned with the inner character and motivations of a person's heart. The heart, in this context, refers to the core of a person's being – their thoughts, desires, and intentions.

Throughout the Bible, we see numerous examples of God choosing and using individuals who were overlooked or dismissed by others due to their outward appearance or circumstances. For instance, God chose Gideon, the least of his family, to lead Israel to victory against the Midianites (Judges 6:15), and He selected Mary, a humble young woman from Nazareth, to be the mother of Jesus (Luke 1:26-38). Jesus Himself emphasized the importance of inward purity and righteousness over external appearances. In Matthew 23:25-28, He rebuked the Pharisees for their hypocrisy, saying, "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ... You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean." This teaching

highlights the fact that true righteousness is not merely a matter of outward compliance with religious rules and traditions, but rather a transformation of the heart that leads to genuine love for God and others (Matthew 22:37-40).

As believers, we are called to cultivate a heart that is wholly devoted to God, one that is characterized by humility, integrity, and a desire to please Him above all else. In Psalm 51:10, David himself prayed, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." This should be our prayer as well, recognizing that God is always more interested in the state of our hearts than our external appearances or achievements.

When Samuel arrived at Jesse's house to anoint one of his sons, David was not even considered initially. As the youngest and least significant of the brothers, David was relegated to the humble task of tending sheep (1 Samuel 16:11). However, it was this overlooked shepherd boy whom God had chosen to lead His people. This narrative is not an isolated incident in Scripture. In fact, God consistently demonstrates His power and wisdom by selecting the lowly, despised, and marginalized to accomplish His plans. As the Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1:27-29, "But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him."

One of the most significant aspects of David's anointing as king was the presence of God that came upon him. As 1 Samuel 16:13 states, "So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David." This divine presence was not a one-time event but a continuous reality that shaped David's life and ministry. The power of God's presence in David's life was evident in the many successes and victories he experienced. One of the most notable examples is David's triumph over Goliath, the Philistine giant (1 Samuel 17). Despite his youth and lack of military experience, David faced Goliath with unwavering confidence in God's power and deliverance. As he declared to the giant, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied" (1 Samuel 17:45).

David's success was not limited to his military exploits. Even before he became king, David's time in Saul's court was marked by the evident presence

of God in his life. As 1 Samuel 16:21-23 recounts, David's skillful playing of the lyre would bring relief to Saul when he was tormented by an evil spirit. This ability to bring peace and comfort was a direct result of the Spirit of God upon David. As believers in Christ, we too have access to the power of God's presence through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 5:18, Paul exhorts us to "be filled with the Spirit," indicating that the presence of God should be a continuous reality in our lives, not just a one-time experience. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to live in a manner that honors God and reflects His character.

One of the clearest evidences of the Holy Spirit's presence in a believer's life is the fruit of the Spirit, as described in Galatians 5:22-23: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." These qualities are not the result of human effort alone but are produced by the Spirit's transforming work within us. The power of God's presence is not only for our personal benefit but also for the sake of others. Just as David's anointing enabled him to bring deliverance and peace to Israel, we too are called to be conduits of God's presence in the world around us. Jesus Himself declared that His followers would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them, enabling them to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

One of the most important lessons we can learn from the life of David is the significance of trusting in God's sovereignty. Despite the numerous challenges and adversities David faced, he consistently demonstrated a deep trust in God's plan and protection. David's life was marked by significant opposition, particularly from King Saul. In 1 Samuel 18:10-11, we read that Saul, filled with jealousy and anger, attempted to kill David by hurling a spear at him. This incident was not isolated, as Saul continued to pursue David and seek his harm. However, in the face of this persistent danger, David did not rely on his own strength or cunning but instead trusted in God's protection and deliverance.

Throughout the Psalms, David eloquently expresses his unwavering trust in God's sovereignty. In Psalm 18:2-3, he declares, "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I have been saved from my enemies." David's confidence in God's power and protection allowed him to face his challenges with courage

and faith. David's trust in God's sovereignty was not based on a guarantee of easy or trouble-free living. In fact, David experienced numerous hardships, including betrayal, loss, and personal failure. However, he understood that God's plans and purposes were ultimately good and that God was working all things together for the benefit of those who love Him (Romans 8:28).

The ultimate example of trusting in God's sovereignty is found in the life and ministry of Jesus. In Luke 22:42, as Jesus faced the agony of the cross, He prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." Despite the immense suffering He knew He would endure, Jesus submitted Himself fully to the Father's plan, trusting in the ultimate redemptive purpose of His sacrifice. As followers of Christ, we are called to emulate this same trust in God's sovereignty. This does not mean that we will be exempt from trials, pain, or difficult circumstances. However, it does mean that we can face these challenges with the assurance that God is in control and that He is working all things together for our good and His glory. Trusting in God's sovereignty requires a daily surrender of our own plans, desires, and expectations. It means acknowledging that God's ways are higher than our ways and that His thoughts are higher than our thoughts (Isaiah 55:9). It involves a willingness to step out in faith, even when the path ahead is uncertain or unclear.

1. David's anointing as king demonstrates that God looks at the heart, not outward appearances. This principle is echoed throughout Scripture, such as in Matthew 23:25-28, where Jesus emphasizes the importance of inward purity over external righteousness. In what ways can we cultivate a heart that is wholly devoted to God, characterized by humility, integrity, and a desire to please Him above all else?

2. Throughout the Bible, God consistently chooses unlikely individuals, such as David, Gideon, Moses, and Mary, to accomplish His divine purposes. These examples underscore the truth that God's ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts (Isaiah 55:8). How can the principle of God choosing the unlikely encourage believers, regardless of their background, abilities, or social standing, to trust and follow Him?