

“Overlooked”

Becoming a Child of God, part 2

1 Samuel 16:1-13

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Thank you, God, for all that you are, and all that you do. You are the Creator, Provider, and Sustainer. You bring to us yourself in the Savior Jesus Christ, who died so that we could live and make this life count for your kingdom. Show us how to more deeply love you and serve our neighbors. Help us not to overlook a single thing you do in our lives. We pray this in the name of Jesus the Messiah. Amen.

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Jesus said we must have the faith of a child to be part of his kingdom. The focus of our current series is on child-like faith. Note, I did not say childish faith. There is a difference. Childish faith says, “It doesn’t matter what you believe, as long as it’s sincere.” Childlike faith says, “I trust you, Jesus, no matter what.”

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Still, God told Samuel: “Enough is enough. Go to Bethlehem, I’ll tell you what to do next. Don’t worry if King Saul finds out what you’re up to. Invite Jesse and his family to a sacrifice. I’ll show you who to anoint.”

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to a special party. No one likes to be left out. David must have felt disappointed when his family neglected him. In this society, the firstborn received the attention, not the youngest kid stuck out in the field with the smelly sheep.

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We look at appearances. I confess, I have often thought of myself as short. I wish I could be at least 5’10”. But that is not what counts in God’s view. It’s not about height, it’s about heart.

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[63] That’s how God works. God takes the left-out, the overlooked, the “oh, they’re too puny, too weak” and turns them into great instruments for God’s kingdom. People like: Abraham – a nobody, a liar. Moses - a stutterer, a murderer. Jacob - the second born, a cheater. The Apostle Paul - a murderer, a Christ hater. David - a shepherd, the youngest, the overlooked.

Do you think that God can use you? If you say yes, Hallelujah! But I wonder if there aren’t a few of us here who think, “Not really. I’m not smart enough, not bold enough, not eloquent enough. I’ve made too many mistakes. I don’t have enough experience.”

Before you decide God can’t use you because of your deficiencies, think about the contrast between King Saul and King David.

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God can use you. God will use you. Don’t sell yourself short.

There are really only two questions we must answer. What has God anointed us, the church, to do? And whom have we overlooked?

[66] Clearly, God calls us to be light to the world. God calls us to spread the good news that Jesus has come to save, not to condemn. God has called us as leaders, like David, to shepherd the people who are lost, wounded, and harassed.

To do that, we cannot afford to overlook anyone that God has placed in our community, especially not children. We regularly have students who go to summer camp. Whom have we overlooked? Whom we can invite to be part of God’s kingdom? Our Children’s Church program meets here every Sunday. Are we anointing these children? Are we serving them? Or are we expecting them to conform to our expectations, or even worse, are we ignoring them?

[67] Jesus said the greatest in the kingdom are children. “Unless you change and become like one of these” you will not experience the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:3) We need our children to teach us to be like them!

It is hard for us to imagine being children again. Even at 46, I don’t do childish things as often as I used to. But the faith of a child is not the same as childish faith. It is trusting faith. It believing. It’s hoping. That’s the faith I want to have, and that’s the faith I want to pass on to the next generation.

God wants us to notice the Davids in our midst. Children are not just “the future of church.” Children are as much a part of our present as we are. Our investment in them is critical, and I don’t just mean camp scholarships. I’m talking about personal, relational investment: Time spent volunteering in Children’s Church, Vacation Bible School, Summer Camp, and Youth Meetings. Going into our schools and offering to mentor students. Taking them downstairs to sit next to you and eat a cookie. Stopping to ask the kid on your street, “How’s it going?” Learning their names. This is how we anoint them.

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Let’s pray.

Memory verse

1 Samuel 16:7b - “The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

Reflection questions

1. Have you ever overlooked something small that turned out to be very important? What was it? Why was it important?
2. How would you describe the “faith of a child”? How does that differ from “childish faith”?
3. Read deeper into I Samuel 16 and beyond. What made David a person after God’s own heart? Which of his qualities would you like to have?
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We look at appearances. I confess, I have often thought of myself as short. I wish I could be at least 5’10”. But that is not what counts in God’s view. It’s not about height, it’s about heart.

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Do you think that God can use you? If you say yes, Hallelujah! But I wonder if there aren’t a few of us here who think, “Not really. I’m not smart enough, not bold enough, not eloquent enough. I’ve made too many mistakes. I don’t have enough experience.”

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God can use you. God will use you. Don’t sell yourself short.

There are really only two questions we must answer. What has God anointed us, the church, to do? And whom have we overlooked?

[66] Clearly, God calls us to be light to the world. God calls us to spread the good news that Jesus has come to save, not to condemn. God has called us as leaders, like David, to shepherd the people who are lost, wounded, and harassed.

To do that, we cannot afford to overlook anyone that God has placed in our community, especially not children. We regularly have students who go to summer camp. Whom have we overlooked? Whom we can invite to be part of God’s kingdom? Our Children’s Church program meets here every Sunday. Are we anointing these children? Are we serving them? Or are we expecting them to conform to our expectations, or even worse, are we ignoring them?

[67] Jesus said the greatest in the kingdom are children. “Unless you change and become like one of these” you will not experience the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:3) We need our children to teach us to be like them!

It is hard for us to imagine being children again. Even at 46, I don’t do childish things as often as I used to. But the faith of a child is not the same as childish faith. It is trusting faith. It believing. It’s hoping. That’s the faith I want to have, and that’s the faith I want to pass on to the next generation.

God wants us to notice the Davids in our midst. Children are not just “the future of church.” Children are as much a part of our present as we are. Our investment in them is critical, and I don’t just mean camp scholarships. I’m talking about personal, relational investment: Time spent volunteering in Children’s Church, Vacation Bible School, Summer Camp, and Youth Meetings. Going into our schools and offering to mentor students. Taking them downstairs to sit next to you and eat a cookie. Stopping to ask the kid on your street, “How’s it going?” Learning their names. This is how we anoint them.

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Let’s pray.

Memory verse

1 Samuel 16:7b - “The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

Reflection questions

1. Have you ever overlooked something small that turned out to be very important? What was it? Why was it important?
2. How would you describe the “faith of a child”? How does that differ from “childish faith”?
3. Read deeper into I Samuel 16 and beyond. What made David a person after God’s own heart? Which of his qualities would you like to have?
4. Have you overlooked yourself? What can God do through you?
5. Have you overlooked someone else? How is God calling you to “anoint” and encourage them?

“Overlooked”

Becoming a Child of God, part 2

1 Samuel 16:1-13

[53] Welcome, friends. This is a morning when we can experience God’s mercy anew. If you are here for the very first time, let me assure you, you are in the right place. Your presence is no accident, and God is ready to show you something amazing, if you will open your heart to him. Let us pray for the Holy Spirit to open our ears, minds, and hearts today. Will you pray with me?

Thank you, God, for all that you are, and all that you do. You are the Creator, Provider, and Sustainer. You bring to us yourself in the Savior Jesus Christ, who died so that we could live and make this life count for your kingdom. Show us how to more deeply love you and serve our neighbors. Help us not to overlook a single thing you do in our lives. We pray this in the name of Jesus the Messiah. Amen.

[54] Small things are important. Ask any fisherman who has ever launched the boat for the first time in the spring, and forgotten one tiny little piece when bringing the boat out of storage. Who knows what I’m talking about? The plug. Right. My dad did this once and fortunately noticed before the boat sank.

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