

**January 19, 2014**

**New Beginnings: A New King**

**1 Samuel 16:7, 13**

“The LORD doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” ... So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David from that day on.

Today we look at yet another “New Beginning.” This time it is a new king. Saul had been anointed as king, but God was not pleased with him. He disobeyed God. So Samuel was instructed by the Lord to go to Bethlehem to a man by the name of Jesse. One of his sons had been chosen by God to be anointed as king.

The eldest son was first to be brought before Samuel. When Samuel saw him he thought, “This has to be the one;” for he was tall, dark, and handsome. I’m sure he was strong and well built. But the Lord said to Samuel, “Haven’t you learned anything yet? Saul was also handsome, tall and strong, but that didn’t work out, did it? People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

After Jesse presented his seven oldest sons, Samuel asked, Is that it? Are these all of your sons? Because I gotta tell ya, God hasn’t chosen any of them. Is there anyone else?” That’s when Jesse lets him know, “well, there is the youngest, but surely you don’t want him, he’s just a shepherd boy. He’s out in the field right now watching sheep and goats.”

Samuel says, “get him at once!” So Jesse sends for him and when he gets there the Lord says to Samuel in his heart, “He’s the one, anoint him.”

“So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David from that day on.”

Having looked at the heart, the Lord chose David to be the new king. This would change things forever for it prepared the way for the King of Kings, Jesus the messiah would be a descendent of David (recorded in Matthew 1:1) who would reign forever, He is our king.

God looks at the heart and chooses David. Earlier Samuel had said this about David...

**1 Samuel 13:14**

**The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart.**

**Acts 13:22**

But God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do.'

What about the heart? Well for one thing...

(1.) God knows it. We know only what we see of people, but God can tell what they are. We are impressed by outward appearance; but God looks on the heart, and sees the thoughts, the desires, and intents of the heart. Secondly...

(2.) God judges us by it. The holiness or goodness of the heart, recommends us to God, and it is the heart that is precious in His sight. Beauty comes from within.

God knew David, chose David, and imparts the Spirit of the Lord powerfully on David. The anointing of David was not an empty ceremony, but a divine power went along with that ceremonial sign of the poured out oil.

God knew David, He knew David's heart. He knew David's faith, and trust. God knew David's heart, that he loved the Lord and obey the Lord. God knew David, and David knew God. David was someone who sought God and knew God. Let's look at some proof of that.

You know the famous story of David and Goliath, listen again to what David says as he stands up to the giant...

1 Samuel 17:45

"You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied."

David stood up to that Giant because he knew and therefore had confidence in the Lord.

For 40 days Goliath, a Philistine taunted the Israelites saying that there was no need for the Armies to fight each other, just sent out your best fighting man and him and I will battle. If he beats me and kills me the Philistines will become your slaves, but if I kill him you will become our slaves.

Saul's troops were terrified of Goliath and they were losing all hope. David was not on the battle ground but his brothers were and one day their father, Jesse sent David to bring food and to see if his brother were alright. While he was there Goliath goes through his regular routine and makes his challenge. David heard him and says who does he think he is taunting the army of the living God again an indication of his faith and relationship with God. His brothers get angry with David and make a sarcastic remark about going to take care of his few sheep. But David goes to Saul and says don't worry about this Philistine, I'll fight him.

Saul says don't be ridiculous you can fight him, there's no way you can win, you're a kid, your inexperienced, while he has been a warrior from before you were born.

And David says, look I take care of my father's sheep and when a lion or a bear comes to harm them what do you think I do? I protect those sheep by fighting and killing those animals, and I can do the same with this Philistine because the same living God who rescues me from those animals will rescue me from this animal of a man. Again notice David's faith in God.

Saul gave in to David and gave David his heavy armor to wear to go and fight Goliath. But David says, "This is not me. This armor may be good for others, it might be what Saul would use, but it's not me." So he took off Saul's armor, armor someone else thought should wear, and instead went before Goliath with 5 smooth stones, a sling, and with all confidence in God. David was true to who he knew he was and had confidence because he knew who God was.

Someone said you can't really know God until you know yourself. David knew himself and He knew God - these two things will make you healthy. Know who you are, know your limits, be who God made you to be, not what you think others want you to be, know yourself and know God. If you do that you will be both emotionally and spiritually healthy, just what is needed for new beginnings.

Why did David know God? One clue might be found in...

**Psalms 119:164**

**I will praise you seven times a day**

In scripture the number seven is a symbol of perfection or of "sacred fullness" and so David may be saying as the Amplified Bible implies:

**Psalms 119:164 AMP**

**Seven times a day *and* all day long do I praise You because of Your righteous decrees.**

It seems that David would stop often during the day to slow down, focus on God to praise Him.

Do you want a new beginning? Do you want to know yourself and God? Do you want Jesus to be King of your life? Then take time every day to stop, center on God and praise Him. God worked and rested, and we need to do the same, not only one day a week (and many Christians are not even doing that) but every day we should have times of work and Sabbath rest – rest and worship. This rest and worship is not a time to ask something of God, but to just be with God.

Stop: David may have stopped seven times a day; or as I said earlier he may have stopped enough times that he was able to be mindful of God and praise God all day long. Maybe we can't stop seven times in a day, but can we stop three times a day; in the morning and at midday, and in the evening; or twice or once a day. The number of times you stop to be with God is not important. What is important is to be unhurried so

that what you might think about or read or pray will sink in. Don't worry about taking a break from your activities, I can assure you that God can actually run His world without you. First stop, then...

Center: Be still and know God's presence and rest there. Let go of tensions, distractions and anything else and just be in God's presence. Next is...

Silence: take two minutes at least to just be silent before God. Silence is uncomfortable. I've read that a study found that an average group can't bear to be silent for more than 15 minutes. We are use to noise and activity. We want to practice quieting ourselves from people and things to attend to God. Henri Nouwen said that "without solitude it is almost impossible to live a spiritual life." There may be some tools you can use...

Scripture: Read Scripture, perhaps a Psalm or a portion of a Psalm, or read from a devotional book. Read slow and take it in deeply in your heart. What is God saying to you? Sometimes you may want to incorporate some worship music, or go someplace where you can enjoy and take in God's creation. The rule of thumb for what you might do during these times of solitude is: if it helps you use it and if it doesn't then don't.

Prayer: end your time with a prayer. Pray about what God brought to your mind during this time with Him. The key to this time is to surrender to God in trust so pray that commitment to God.

Don't make this just another thing to add to your to do list. Don't feel guilty if you miss a day, don't do it just to do it. But be mindful of God's Presence. Getting in the rhythm of having these times with God will help you to be in His presence and praise Him all day long.

Remember Martha and Mary? Martha served Jesus, yet was missing Jesus. She was busy in the "doing" of life; worried and upset about many things. Mary on other hand sat at Jesus' feet, listening; not just doing for but being with Jesus.

Mary's center of gravity was Jesus. I suspect that if Mary were to help her sister with the many chores she would not be worried or upset. Why? Her inner person had slowed down enough to focus on Jesus and to center her life on Him.

I don't know what it is but once again this week I read an illustration that I remember Pastor Art sharing many years ago. Pastor Art was brought up on a farm in Michigan. What I heard is that the blizzards that hit the Midwest can be so bad that you can't see your hand in front of your face. So the farmers would prepare for these blizzards by tying a rope from the back door of their house out to the barn as a guide to return safely home in a blizzard. These blizzards can come up quickly and are very dangerous. Many froze to death in those blizzards, disoriented by their inability to see. If they lost their grip on the rope, it became impossible to find their way home. They wandered in circles, lost sometimes in their own backyards. Some froze within feet of their door, never realizing how close there were to safety.

Many Christians have lost their way spiritually in the blizzard of the world around us. We all have to be careful that we don't get so busy that we can't stop or that we feel guilty if we do stop. Add to this the storms and trials of life that come unexpected and we wonder why we are disoriented. We need a rope to lead us home. God is offering us that rope that leads us back to Him it is these times of solitude we talked about today. We need to set our lives toward a new King or reset our lives to our King whom we have neglected. Solitude not because we have to, but because we want to will bring us home.