

## Growing Through Conflict – Series

### 06-25-17 – Conflicts Within the Family – 1 Sam. 16

This is the first week after our Pastor has left. John and I have considered starting a new series on the life of David. This is the first installment. The series will focus on various aspects of life conflicts. The first message is regarding the conflicts David experienced within his own family dynamic.

**Here's a quote from Erwin W. Lutzer:** the author of the book we're using as a guide...

*“Did you know that it's impossible to predict who will be mightily used by God? Impossible, because God has His own reasons for putting unlikely people in even more unlikely places! His evaluation of each of us is quite different from the grade we give ourselves or the assessment of our friends. It just may be that God has a place mapped out for you that is much greater than what you would ever dream for yourself.”*

We've all been measured by someone else's yardstick – parents, siblings, friends, coworkers, etc. Don't we all actually look at others according to our own standards of “most wanted qualities?” Appearance, personality, wit, sincerity – all effect the judgments we make of one another. We subconsciously grade each other on a scale that is according to our liking. People are regarded in our minds by relative value – according to our scale.

Some parents judge their children by society's yardsticks. James Dobson says our culture regards **beauty as the golden yardstick**. This is the top characteristic of measuring value today. And, if that is the gold rule, then **intelligence is the silver coin**. There is prestige that comes with intelligence. I work in one of the most prestigious departments at the Lab. All of my users are PhD and multi PhD physicists. Some are high and mighty, and they wear their credentials on their sleeve, but they are the minority. Most are humble and realize we all are working together to do science. They need us (my group) as much as we need them. I am a nothing in their world. Much like David in his family world.

Sometimes children can have natural abilities that are quite gifted, but they receive no recognition within their own families. Some feel the sting of that rejection well into their adult life. *“There is evidence that David suffered because of the rejection from his father and older brothers.”*

#### **The Search for a King (Pastor) –**

**Turn to 1 Samuel 16.** You may want to follow along as we go through this chapter a piece at a time.

**v. 1 – “Now the LORD said to Samuel, “You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king.”**

Samuel anointed Saul as king. I'm sure he was feeling some type of failure now that God rejected Saul. It wasn't a reflection on Samuel. We sometimes think that anything that goes against what we thought God was calling us to, must be a failure on our part if it doesn't work out. That's not the case.

God may have led you to do exactly what he planned for an unknown purpose. Don't question or doubt the leading of the Holy Spirit. God doesn't make mistakes, and even if we do, He can make it right again according to His perfect plan.

Samuel questioned God because of Saul's great anger. How could he go and anoint another king while Saul was still on the throne? God gave him a loophole in the plan.

**v. 3-4a - *"Take a heifer with you," the LORD replied, "and say that you have come to make a sacrifice to the LORD. Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you which of his sons to anoint for me."***  
**So Samuel did as the LORD instructed.**

God gave Samuel a way to carry out His will. It was true and good, but it also allowed Samuel a way to anoint the new king. So the old man traveled to Bethlehem with a heifer and an entourage to Jesse's neck of the woods. There he stated his intentions. Jesse was personally invited along with all his sons. Seven of his sons were there with him, but not David. What? Wasn't David also a son of Jesse? Why was he excluded?

Samuel started things off ... In the past Samuel judged by physical appearance (Saul). It worked out, so he thought. He asked for Jesse's sons to be brought before him. The first born, Eliab, was very kingly to look at. He was tall and handsome with a great physique. Surely he was the one. Plus, the first born usually got the best rating in the family.

**v. 6 - *When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "Surely this is the LORD's anointed!"***

Thankfully, before Samuel anointed him, God spoke by His Spirit and corrected him...

**v. 7 - *But the LORD said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The LORD doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."***

Now – I don't want to analogize too much here, but I am thinking of our pastoral search. I would like to caution you all not to look on the outward appearance or the eloquence of the speaking. Pray and ask the Lord to reveal to you, as He did to Samuel, what is the heart of the person. The search committee has met with the DS, and he has relayed to us that God already has the right person picked out, just like David was chosen before Saul stepped down (well sort of, but God knew what would happen). We need to believe and pray along the lines that God would direct us to the ONE He has already picked to be our pastor. I am in total agreement with this train of thought. I ask you all to pray along these same lines. We will never replace Pastor Jerry, but maybe we don't really want to for the health of the church. We may need someone different.

The main point is that, if we are praying for God to direct our steps in this process, we also must be ready to look not on the outward appearance of the person, but try to see and pray to see their heart for ministry.

Back to our text...

David was out tending the sheep, while his father and brothers were at the celebration. WHAT?

After all seven brothers were presented to Samuel, none were acceptable. Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all your sons?" Jesse had to admit he had one more, the RUNT of the family, a kid, out tending the sheep, not invited to the feast at all. This was not probably the first time David was excluded from a family event.

David was summoned to appear before Samuel from the field. He must have been surprised and elated.

David didn't have all the physical attractions as did his brothers for a kingly position. As soon as he was presented before Samuel, the Lord instructed Sam to anoint him as king of Israel. Sam obeyed with joy. **v. 13 - 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.**

David was not loved or honored by his brothers. There was conflict in this family for sure. Humble in spirit, David returned to tend the sheep, even though he was anointed King of Israel. Amazing! Can you imagine waiting years to receive what you knew to be yours? That's a hard nut to swallow.

David was then summoned to play the harp for Saul in the palace while still carrying out his home duties. The Lord had removed His anointing from Saul and replaced it with a depression. Only the soothing playing of David's harp gave him relief. So David – King of Israel – bounced back and forth from the palace to his home chores. Can you imagine? His father and brothers didn't pay him any special attention. They may have even been gloating. What about David being anointed? What difference did that make? David waited – humbly!

David was 15 when anointed king. About 4 years later, Jesse asked David to bring some supplies to his brothers on the front line of a battle between Israel and the Philistines. Let's look at his brother's attitude toward him...

David obeyed his father and brought supplies to his brothers. When he saw the situation, he began to ask questions regarding the Philistine giant and what would be done for whoever would slay him. Meanwhile, the entire Israelite camp was shaking in fear. When his oldest brother, Eliab, heard of it – it says ...

**17:28 - But when David's oldest brother, Eliab, heard David talking to the men, he was angry. "What are you doing around here anyway?" he demanded. "What about those few sheep you're supposed to be taking care of? I know about your pride and deceit. You just want to see the battle!"**

Obviously, there was conflict within this family between David and his brothers. They discounted him altogether, and they even commented on his insignificance – a mere shepherd boy – useless. David's anointing as king meant nothing to his brothers. It probably added fuel to the fire.

I think it's ironic that Eliab, who thought the selection process was going to be a beauty contest of who had the best physique or the most kingly presence, wound up being passed over in silence, ignored, unrecognized for who he thought he was. David, the exact opposite, in humility, was chosen as king. Eliab disappears from Scripture at this point and is never heard about again.

The family conflict deeply affected David. You would think he is tough, a warrior, a king, but here's what he says in **Psalm 27:10 – "For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me up."**

This is key in family conflict situations and results. We need to know down deep that it doesn't matter about the family dynamic and its resultant conflict. The only thing that matters is that the Lord is with you and will take you on the journey. You're not alone. You are significant. You are valued. You have something to contribute. You are a child of God with a purpose to advance the kingdom in whatever way God chooses.

If any of his brothers were made king, they might have been a clone of Saul, who was impressive in appearance but had a self-serving, disobedient heart. David was a man after God's own heart.

**1 Sam. 10:23** – *“he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward”* –  
*“Though Saul was tall and handsome, inwardly he was filled with rot. Looks are deceiving.”*

Before David was anointed king, the Lord said, ***“The Lord has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has appointed him as ruler over His people”*** – (1 Sam 13:14)

David was appointed before he was anointed. *“In God's plan David had already been appointed king: It was just a matter of time before it would be fulfilled. A shepherd boy “after God's own heart” was chosen above those who appeared more qualified for the position.”*

God rejected seven candidates for the position of the next king, why? The answer is found in **v. 16:7...**  
***“But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but he Lord looks at the heart.’”***

I give you another warning in selecting our new pastor. Listen to his preaching; look at his presence and his family; sense how he is organized, or anything else about him, but do NOT judge based on physical tangible appearances only. Pray, pray, pray through this process. Let God reveal to you who He has already picked to be our next pastor. Try to step back from yourself and your mind and your intellect. We all want someone who has great Bible knowledge. But, I think we want someone who is truly compassionate and relational. We want someone who will take us from this point of transition to the next level in ministry. We may not get another 30 year pastor. Maybe we will have someone for 3-5 years who fills in the gap and gets us on the right track for the next pastor who might be here for 30 years carrying out the ministry set in motion.

I have no idea. I am praying for all this the same as you. I hope you are praying, because that's the only way we will all be on the same page when the time comes to vote for the next pastor. I am confident that God has already picked that person. I hope you are praying along with us too. Pray so you might not be slanted by personal preference, but by what is best for our church. They may not be who we expected!

David was far from perfect. His failings are well documented in Scripture. *“Yet he was used by God in spite of these faults, for God needed a broken-hearted man to teach future generations how to be comforted in the midst of pain. David was used by God, not in spite of these weaknesses, but because of them!”*

I only want people to see my strengths. I'm sure the candidates that comes before you as a pastor choice will only want you to see their strengths. They will preach their best sermons and present their perfect families.

Take all of this in and pray it through to see who God has selected.

Let's examine David's heart –

### A Shepherd's Heart

**Ps. 78:70-72 – “He also chose David His servant, and took him from the sheepfolds; from the care of the ewes with suckling lambs He brought him, to shepherd Jacob His people, and Israel His inheritance. So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them with his skillful hands.”**

In 1 Sam 17:34-35 – David gave a testimony of his skill in protecting the flock. He risked his life to protect the sheep. He took on bear and lion bare handed to protect them. He put his life on the line for the sheep.

1000 years later another shepherd would arrive on the scene, born where David was anointed king. He is the Good Shepherd, and He would lay His life down for the sheep. Jesus, God incarnate, came from the Father to give his life for our sin. If David could be trusted with sheep, God knew he could trust him with men.

### A Humble Heart

David only needed to know that if God had chosen him as King, it would be up to God to fulfill His Word.

It took 14 years of waiting before David would be crowned King of Israel. *“He would learn that what we do while we are waiting is just as important to God as that for which we wait!”*

### A Serving Heart

The Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and an evil/depressing spirit took his place. David was summoned to play his harp to comfort Saul. Praise songs to God drive away evil spirits. David was also Saul's armor bearer. This showed David's willingness to play second fiddle to Saul. David did nothing out of arrogance or pride.

**Those who cannot serve, cannot lead.** This is a principle of God.

**Tozer – “The best leaders are those who do not aspire to leadership.”**

*“Men choose leaders with one checklist, God uses another.”*

### A Worshipful Heart

**Ps. 42:1-2 – “As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; when shall I come and appear before God?”**

David found his satisfaction in God, no matter his many faults. Shouldn't we be the same?

*“Few have learned to draw on God's resources as often and as desperately as David; few have found God to be so sufficient in the hour of need.”*

### A Forgiveness Heart

We are aware of the story of the sin of David in committing adultery and murder in the Bathsheba story. While the results of that sin plagued David to his death, he did receive forgiveness when he totally confessed his sin to Nathan the prophet and to the Lord. When he confessed from his heart, he was forgiven, cleansed, restored by God. This promise is true for us today.

**1 John 1:9 – “But if we confess our sin to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”**

***Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world’s eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. <sup>27</sup> Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. <sup>28</sup> God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. <sup>29</sup> As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God. (1 Cor. 1:26-29)***

We cannot predict who God will choose for positions of responsibility. This includes our next pastor. Remember we look at things differently than God does.

***Man looks at the appearance, but God looks at the heart. 1 Sam 16:7***

If you have felt tension in your family dynamic toward you, rest in this... To God you are valuable and significant. If you have felt that God has forsaken you while others have been given special privileges, take heart. Just be obedient to what God has called YOU to be – don’t focus on others. Do His will whether great or small. Pray continually about everything. Your friends may have one opinion of you, but God has another.