

A Nobody, Nobody Noticed  
1 Sam 16:1-13

I want to start a new sermon series for the next few weeks looking at the life of David. This series is based on a book written by Charles Swindoll.

1809 was a very good year. However, most people at the times would have disagreed. Napoleon was on the march and every eye in Europe was focused on him. As he continued his bid to conquer Europe, history was being made elsewhere. Babies were being born that would impact the world of the future long after Napoleon was dead and gone. William Gladstone, one of the greatest Prime Ministers of Great Britain, Oliver Wendell Holmes, one of our greatest statesmen, Alfred Tennyson and Edgar Allen Poe, two incredible writers were born, and in a little cabin in Kentucky, Abraham Lincoln drew his first breath.

Incredible minds of the future were simply nobody babies of the present. No one knew or expected their wondrous potential. No one saw these babies as the great minds they would become. All eyes were focused on Napoleon.

As you will see in a few minutes, it was the same for David, and it's probably the same for you. You are a nobody, nobody noticed. Yet, this is a very good year.

PRAYER

## I. David Recognized by God

### A. Prelude

1. To understand our text a little better, lets back up and quickly look at what led to this moment.
2. It wasn't long ago that Saul was found hiding in the baggage.
3. He was an incredible physical presence.
4. Scripture tells us he stood a head taller than any other man in Israel.
5. He looked the part of a King: Tall, strong, good looking.
6. He was the people's choice, but he wasn't God's choice
7. As his reign progresses, Samuel sees what God saw from the very beginning.
8. Saul was a shallow man, rash, compromising, and even openly disobedient to God's will.
9. Finally, God has enough and rejects him.
10. He sends Samuel to anoint a new king

### B. Samuel gets a lesson

1. Samuel knows Saul isn't the right man to be God's king anymore and it is tearing him up.
2. He is grieving because he doesn't see how this is going to end well, but God is already aware of what needs to be done.
3. While Samuel didn't know what to do; Even though Saul was a complete failure as a Godly king, God's plan was undiminished.
4. He already knew what needed to be done.

### C. I get a lesson

1. How many times are we just like Samuel.
2. We see all that is wrong and we are convinced this is the end of everything that matters spiritually, all the while forgetting that God's got this.

3. I love Isaiah's words in Isa 65:24 - Isaiah 65:24 (ESV) — 24 Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.
4. God's plans aren't changed by man's failures and incapacities.
5. I have to constantly remind myself that God sees what I don't.
6. I remind myself that God's plans will always be accomplished.
7. He is God and no mere mortal is going to thwart what he has set in motion from the very beginning.

#### D. Man's measurement

1. Back to our story.
2. Samuel comes to the house of Jesse to see his sons.
3. The first one comes in to see Samuel.
  - a) He was much like Saul; warlike, strong, physically imposing.
  - b) In a nation that is surviving by constant fighting he was the kind of man you would look for to lead your people.
4. Samuel thought "this is the man"
5. God had a strange answer for him. 1 Samuel 16:7 (ESV) — 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.”

6. Then comes Abinadab and he too was rejected.
7. In fact, 7 sons were rejected.
8. Samuel asks, “are there any more?”
9. Well, there’s David, but he’s just a boy. He’s the runt of the family. We left him in the fields with the sheep because he really isn’t at a point to be considered for anything. Maybe someday, but not now.
10. In comes David, a ginger among black haired people.
  - a) A pretty boy. You’ve seen them, nice looking kids who MIGHT grow up to be nice looking men.
  - b) He was the type of kid you smile at, tousle his hair, and say, “go play while the adults talk”
11. God says, “this is the man I want to be the next king”

#### E. God’s measurement

1. What was it about David set him apart from his brothers?
2. Why would God choose the boy from among the men?
3. Why would God choose the runt instead of the warriors?
4. God measures the heart, not the outward appearance.
5. God saw in David the man he would become
  - a) He saw faithfulness.
  - b) He was strength of character.
  - c) He even saw his flaws.
  - d) But more than David’s flaws, God saw his deep abiding love for his Lord.
6. That’s what God was looking for.
7. That’s the type of man God would use to shape a nation built on following God Almighty.

8. That's the type of person God wants to lead the church.
9. It's not about who is physically impressive, it's about who is spiritually impressive.
10. It's about who has a heart for God and the people around them.
11. God looks for shepherds when we are looking for kings.

#### F. Just like any other day

1. Have you ever thought about this story from David's point of view?
2. For David, this had to have been quite the shock.
3. He got up that morning to do what he always did.
4. This was a day just like any other day.
5. He tended his sheep, he cared for the injured, he watched over his father's flock, he might have sung songs of praise to God.
6. His day was like any other day, being faithful to his father's will.
7. Yet it was this day that changed his life forever.
8. He's anointed by the greatest prophet in the kingdom in front of his family and the elders of Bethlehem, but as far as we know, he was never told why!
9. He goes back to the field probably wondering about what just happened.
10. I don't know for sure he recognized how momentous that day was in his life.

## II. We Are Recognized by God

### A. Man's measurements

1. When we think of great men and women, what do we use to measure that greatness?
2. Great warriors, articulate statesmen, incredible physical talents, minds that contain genius?
3. These are what we would deem as important for being great.
4. Our minds always seem to focus on the externals.

- a) Tall people are more likely to be promoted than short.
- b) Physically attractive people succeed more easily than unattractive people.
- c) We like the pretty people. We admire the pretty people, and we listen to the pretty people.
- d) It's part of the weird context we have today where celebrities become heroes, or their opinions are accepted simply because they are good looking and famous.
- e) Our political leaders are chosen by how they look on TV and if they have an appealing personality rather than their stances on issues that matter.

B. God measures us in a different way

1. Rev 2:10 – Be faithful until death and I will give you a crown of eternal life.
2. Jump ahead the New Testament with me and to a different Saul.
3. The world saw the man SAUL as an up and coming Pharisee with education and training to be one of the Great Jewish Leaders. They couldn't believe he would give all that up.
4. God measured the man PAUL by his willingness to give all that up to live as traveling missionary.
5. He uses men like a mentally challenged trash man in TX. This man loved God with all his heart and in his stammering way, told people about Christ, left tracts and lives a godly life. At his funeral 3000 people

including the mayor and other dignitaries of the city came to pay respects. Many of them Christians because of this man's faith.

6. The world saw a cast off, God saw a wonderful saint

7. The world looks at Eli and sees a gangly freshman in High School who MIGHT make something of himself in the future.

8. God sees a young man who wants to be a faithful Christian and church leader someday.

9. God measures his spiritual maturity, not his physical maturity.

10. God uses women like Lisa and Melva who used their teaching talents in our preschool to plant seeds of eternal hope in the lives of the families they deal with on a day-to-day basis.

11. The world looks at them as "just preschool teachers" who make very little money. God measures them in a different way.

12. The world looks at Aric simply as a factory worker who spends too much time with teenagers.

13. God see a man committed to influencing and teaching the next generation of faithful Christians.

14. Man looks at the families who stood before us last week as simply nobodies from a town no one has ever heard of.

15. God looks at them as men and women committed to raising their families to honor and love God.

16. The world may write you off as someone who doesn't measure up.

a) Too fat, too skinny.

b) Not popular, not wealthy, not powerful.

c) Too old, too young, too simple

17. God measures you in a different way

a) Have you given your life to God?

b) Do you serve him faithfully?

c) Are you sharing your faith with others?

C. Conclusion

1. A shepherd boy no one noticed became God's choice for a king.
2. A man, woman or child sitting in the pew of a small rural church that no one noticed became God's choice for....
3. Don't sell yourself short. God doesn't