

From the Face to the Heart
By Senior Pastor Tom Harrison
But... Sermon Series
June 21, 2020

The Bible in 5 words

Israel's background: Pentateuch, Joshua (Promised Land) Judges (the conquest)

Last Sunday we described the period of the Judges & Samson, the final judge.

1 Samuel follows. This book transitioned from the 400+ year period of the judges to the kings. Israel demanded a king because everyone else (the other nations) had them. The Lord wasn't pleased. They got what they were chasing but didn't know what to do when they caught it. Samuel anointed Saul as the 1st king, but Saul's raging inferiority complex & unstable mental health made him into an incompetent leader. Samuel was devastated. The Lord sent him to Bethlehem, to the household of Jesse (grandson of Ruth and Boaz) to anoint the next king of Israel.

Sermon journals. Usually, the sermon idea in your SJ is printed in bulletin. Since we have no bulletins, let me put on screen what I wrote about this text.

From the Face to the Heart (David) The selection of David as the 2nd king of Israel = a beautiful story. We think one way, but God often takes a different approach. We see the outward appearance, but God sees the heart. This is counterintuitive. Jesus took this approach in His Sermon on the Mount. The human worldview is one thing, but God's perspective is entirely different. "BUT" is found 27x in Mt 5-7. Jesus' ministry had one overall objective – introduce people to the KOG. As is in the case of David, it is so easy to overlook & marginalize people. We see their limitations & weaknesses. They are too young & inexperienced. We want them to wait their turn & not disrupt the status quo. Or maybe they are too old & out-of-touch. We want them to move aside & give us our day in the sun. We tend to be preoccupied with outward appearances, but God has an entirely different way of seeing things.

1 Samuel 16:1 16:6-13

3 "BUTs"

7 BUT the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance

Nobody looked at D like God saw D. Not his dad, brothers or Samuel. What the world tells us to value is often the exact opposite of what God values. That coupled with social media leads to this awful cycle of comparison: APPEARANCES.

(What do I look like? Weight. Body type. Car. House. Clothes. Somebody told me this week she gave up social media a year ago bc it was making her jealous, anxious & depressed.

"Coddling of the American Mind" 5 activities help kids avoid

Depression/Anxiety: 1) Exercise/Sports 2) Religious Services

3) Reading books (+ other printed material)

4) In-person interactions 5) Homework

All have **one thing in common: NO SCREENS.**

Tall Saul looked great, but incompetent/mentally unstable. Even Sam misjudged by appearance

For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward

appearance, BUT the LORD looks on the heart.” Isaiah 55:8-9 “*My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are my ways your ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than yours & my thoughts than your thoughts.*”

“There remains yet the youngest BUT behold, he is keeping the sheep.”

He has 2 strikes against him:

1.) David is the **youngest**

2.) Keeping **sheep** seems a pejorative. Not glamorous. It was a great way for D to prepare to become a leader. Time alone with God under the stars. Time to write songs & practice his instrument. D wrote the 23rd Psalm & it was based on his own experience. Learning to fight lions/bears to protect flocks. Hearing stories of war from his brothers.

David was anointed “in the midst of his brothers” ¹³ *Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers.* Do you think they are happy for him?

Now Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab's anger was kindled against David, & he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption & the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle." 1 Sam 17:28

Like Joseph’s brothers –jealous and angry w the “chosen” one. Like dubious award, “*The Employee of the Month*” parking space – how’s that go over with their peers? Imagine the tension in the room as each young man passed by the prophet. All the sons with “potential” were present, the youngest was not, “but behold, he is keeping the sheep.”

APPLICATION

Wesleyan Quad = how we believe. Scripture predominant. Tradition 2ND, reason & experience, too. Many Xns do not know teachings of Bible. Prefer to give own opinions based on what they think & how they feel. Thus, we are prone not to see things as the Lord sees them. *For the LORD sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, BUT the LORD looks on the heart.*”

If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, & it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us & destroy them. BUT the line dividing good & evil cuts thru the heart of every human being We are all sinners & capable of being wise/foolish/evil.

We forget everything. What we remember is not what actually happened, not history, but merely that hackneyed dotted line they have chosen to drive into our memories by incessant hammering. *The Gulag Archipelago* (1973) Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
(Be careful of trusting your own memories)

“The Coddling of the American Mind,” = untruth of emotional reasoning.
Judging people w/o knowing their heart leads to misjudgment. *Go with your gut...*” feelings may be right, but they may be wrong. They will nearly always change. Do not make decisions based

on emotion. Learn scriptures. Learn to trust the Word: the written Word, the Bible. And the living word, J. ***Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today & forever.*** Heb 13:8

And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon D from that day forward. When the heart is right with the Lord, good things happen. How's your heart?