

1 Samuel 16 – Sermon Notes God Brings Hope From the Edges

Imagination. This ability to believe that the weakest can overcome the strongest, that the first shall indeed be last, and the last will march up into first -- to hope beyond our condition.

The story of David starts with the people who Moses brought out of Egypt settled into the land and set up as twelve tribes. There was no central government, but each tribe ruled their own area. They felt that if they banded their tribes together and had one king, they would be more powerful than 12 individual tribes.

The king became immediately corrupt.

Samuel was a judge. Not like a courtroom judge, but a man raised up by God to bind the people together when God wanted to make them more powerful.

Samuel had tried to work with the king. Samuel had gone to the king and called him on his corruption. And at first, the king would deny it. But in the privacy of the moment, King Saul would admit that he had sinned against God, but then he would ask Samuel to cover it up. Samuel grew sick of covering up.

God grew sick as well. God decided to pick a new king.

God Calls People From the Edges - 1 Samuel 16:1

God says to Samuel – use your imagination. You're sitting here grieving because Saul is a terrible king and he will be a terrible king for as long as Samuel can imagine. But God says, imagine something more. Imagine a new king. One from the edge.

God's Calling Isn't Safe - 1 Samuel 16:2

Samuel has no imagination. He can only imagine that God's request will lead to his death. You have to have enough imagination to take a risk.

God Acts Very Quietly - 1 Samuel 16:2-5

God doesn't require you to make a spectacle. But He does require you to make a difference.

Consecrate yourselves. Prepare your mind to encounter God. It is difficult to imagine a better future when you're mired in the mud of every day.

God's Choices Are Not Obvious - 1 Samuel 16:6-10

You cry out to God. You take the risk given to you by God. You go to where God tells you to go. And there is nothing there.

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." – 1 Samuel 16:7

This is where God wants to take us. God says that when you begin to follow Jesus, He will write all the laws onto your heart. We won't have to look for a king with a godly heart. We will have a godly heart. We will want the things that God wants. We will risks turning corruption and brokenness on its ear.

God is Wants People with His Heart – 1 Samuel 16:12-13

There is tremendous hope for those at the edges who can imagine that God plans to lead all things around to Himself.

There is a promise from God to make His heart our heart if we are willing to accept His calling and the risks that come with it.

I believe... I have imagination enough to see a possibility... that if you are willing to accept the calling and the risks that come with it, that God will this morning, pour his Spirit upon you.