


First Baptist Church
Canton
Gather. Grow. Go.

**'HONING IN ON THE
HEART!'**



**A VERSE-BY-VERSE SERIES ON THE BOOK OF
1ST SAMUEL
DURING WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES IN 2024**

Honing in on the Heart!' Sermon Series

Sermon #30:

'God Sees the Extraordinary in the Ordinary!'

Wednesday, October 16th, 2024

Last week in 'Honing in on the Heart:

- Tonight we start on the second of four parts of our series through 1st Samuel.
 - *Last Wednesday night we hit the 25% mark through our study.*
- I preached part 2, of a sermon entitled ***'The Results of Disobedience!'*** from 1st Samuel 15:24-35.
 - I asked the question: *What are the Results of Saul's personal decision to actively engage in disobedience against God?*
 - **Truth 3: *Saul's Poor Actions.* (V. 24-27)**
 - **Truth 4: *Samuel Responds Accurately.* (V. 28-31)**

○ **Truth 5: *Samuel Kills Agag.* (V. 32-35)**

- Based on the messages from 1st Samuel 15 that we have looked at in the last several weeks, how has God shown you, and worked in your heart, to not let the results of disobedience that Saul was guilty of, be evident in your life?

'God Sees the Extraordinary in the Ordinary!'

1st Samuel 16:1-13

Sermon in a Sentence:

We can see that God sees the Extraordinary in the Ordinary when we Move on from the Past, Move Towards God's Plan, Move away from People's preferences, and move ourselves closer to God's Purpose.

Intro:

- The well known passage from the book of Isaiah floods my mind as I have studied this passage of scripture in preparation for tonight.
 - 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.' Isaiah 55:8-9
- ***As we begin the next 25% of the book of 1st Samuel, we begin with the very well known OT narrative, the anointing of King David.***
 - ***The David that we find in our text tonight is not going to be the same David that is going to***

dance when the ark of the covenant is returned to Jerusalem.

- This is not the same David who is going to grieve over his son Absalom.
- This is not the same David who showed great grace to Mishobeth.
- This is not the same David who would have Uriah killed, so that he could take bathsheba to be his wife.
- *What I mean by these statements is this: **The young, ruddy, and handsome shepherd boy that we are introduced to tonight, would be transformed by God to be the King of Israel and be capable of all the things that I just mentioned, good and bad.***
 - *Because what we find tonight is an ordinary boy.*
 - *What we find tonight is the Biblical concept that God wants to use the ordinary people so that He can do something extraordinary.*
- **Illustration**
 - In the spring of 2000, the NFL held their annual Draft Combine event where all the college players who have ambitions of being drafted and making it in the pros, can work out so that all can see.
 - That year, an awkward 6'4, 211 Pound quarterback came to the NFL Combine.

■ *40-yard dash: 5.28 seconds*

■ *Vertical jump: 24.5 inches*

■ *20-yard short shuttle: 4.38 seconds*

- For a quarterback, these stats are less than admirable.
- *And to add to it, in college, this awkward QB was the backup at Michigan for most of his career, only throwing 30 TD's and 17 int's in his four year career as a wolverine.*
- Here's what NFL scouts said about this particular QB:
 - One scout noted (Brady) was "Awful. He's not even on my board. Weak. He'll make somebody a good husband or a good medical salesman." Yikes. Another QB coach said, "Backup. Could be a No. 2 in this league for a long time. Has the size but not enough arm."
- *This less than desirable Quarterback in the 2000 NFL Draft was none other than Tom Brady.*
 - Who many will argue was and is, the greatest quarterback in NFL history.
 - He was the 7th QB selected in the draft, having been drafted 199th overall in the 6th round.
 - Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots took a chance on the big, awkward size QB, when most scouts said he would go undrafted.

- ***Believe it or not, the human eye and instinct is no match for what God may have in store for a particular person and their future.***

- Several years ago there was a young, naive and inexperienced kid, who was called by God and wanted to Pastor.

- ***He sent resumes across the Country, specifically in Texas, and was turned down a total of 21 times.***

- This individual received emails from many search committees saying ‘You’re not ready.’ ‘You’re too much of a liability.’ ‘You’re not educated.’ ‘You aren’t prepared or ready to lead a Church.’

- ***When consulting mentors and Denominational leaders this young man was told:***

- ***‘Wait your turn. Stay as a youth pastor or associate, you’ll have plenty of time to Pastor once you’re in your 40s, 50s, and 60s.’***

- ‘You’ll get eaten alive.’

- ‘You won’t make it a year Pastoring.’

- On and on and on.

- ***This young man was tempted to believe all these outside voices. But he believed, for some reason, that the Call of God was stronger than***

that of any outside voice, even family and respected leaders.

- That young man became a Senior Pastor at 21 and was able to experience incredible Church growth.

- That young man is still Pastoring that same Church, nearly 4 years later. That young man, is me.

- ***See I believe tonight in our text that God can do the Extraordinary in what the world views as less than ordinary.***

- ***The world saw a measly peasant shepherd boy, while God Himself, saw a King...***

****Read 1st Samuel 16:1-13****

Question to Ask:

Based on this passage, how can I allow God to do the Extraordinary through the ordinary things in my life?

Point 1: *Move on from the Past. (V. 1-3)*

- ‘The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” **2** And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ **3** And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you.”

- One of the hardest things for a Christian to do, is to let go of the past, and let God rule and reign with the future.
 - ***God can't do the extraordinary in our ordinary lives here tonight simply because many of us are holding on to our past.***
- The situation with Saul and his disobedience obviously weighed heavily on Samuel.
 - ***Any leader who shepherds over souls such as Samuel, goes through days and seasons, where their hearts are so heavy for the ones that they protect and provide for spiritually.***
- What exactly was Samuel grieving over when it came to Saul?
 - ***#1: The missed opportunity of his reign.***
 - ***#2: The implications of his demise and how that would affect the nation of Israel.***
- Samuel had gone through a ministry roller coaster, like many Pastors will over the tenure of their ministry.
 - ***Samuel wants to hang onto the past and mourn, grieve, and sulk over what happened.***
 - Yes, there is a proper time to grieve and mourn over these kinds of things.
- But there is also a time when we must move on and let God move and work in our hearts and lives to do the ***extraordinary*** in our ***ordinary***.
 - There are **2** things to point out concerning moving on from the past.
- ***Don't let the actions of others control you. (V. 1)***
 - 'The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."
 - ***It is natural, and even human, to let the actions of others affect us. But it's important that we do not let the actions of others affect us to the point where it controls us.***
 - As believers, many of us (not all of us), love HARD.
 - ***Which means that we love people that we minister to, serve, and seek to take care of.***
 - It is very natural for us to hurt and grieve when someone we know and love in the body of Christ is no longer following Him the way that they once did.
 - ***From the perspective of a Pastor, this can be when someone leaves your Church and goes to another Church.***

- This can be when someone leaves Church and never returns.
 - From the perspective of a SS teacher, this can be when someone falls out of SS and never comes back, goes to another class, or a variety of different things and emotions.
 - ***While it's okay to grieve over someone who has drifted from the Lord, or like in Saul's case, rejected the Lord, it's not okay for that to control you and your personal ministry to and for the Lord.***
 - Satan wants to use that in such a way where he can control you with your own grief.
 - Samuel was getting this way, and God steps in and has a conversation with Him and a task that he is to get up and do.
- ***Don't fear what others may do to you based on your beliefs. (V. 2-3)***
 - 'And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' 3 And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you."
 - It is no shock to us tonight that Samuel was afraid of Saul, because we saw just a few passages earlier that Saul violently grabbed the bottom of Samuel's robe.
 - ***Saul is a very aggressive and violent man, Samuel has seen this and knows this about Saul.***
 - ***It may be really hard for you tonight to move on from the past, because you're afraid of what someone who has hurt you may do.***
 - You may be afraid of physical pain, financial pain, being cut off, it can be a variety of different things.
 - ***Samuel was afraid, but God clearly tells him that he is to pick himself up, stop making excuses and do what God was telling Him to do for the betterment of Israel.***
 - You may be wondering, why was Samuel to take a heifer with him (female cow)?
 - According to Robert D. Bergen '*As a levitical judge, Samuel was authorized to sacrifice such an animal as part of a ritual that atoned for an unsolved murder committed in a rural region (Deuteronomy 21:1-9). Thus samuel's journey to a rural region with a sacrificial animal accompanying him would not have raised undue suspicions.*'

- After the Lord spoke with Samuel, Samuel was able to move on from the past, and start to move more towards God's Plan...

Point 2: *Move Towards God's Plan. (V. 4-5)*

- 'Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" 5 And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.'
- So the Lord has told Samuel what to do, and now Samuel heads to the place he was told to go, Bethlehem.
 - **Many details in this narrative didn't make sense to Samuel and may not even make sense to us.**
 - The important thing is that we move closer towards God's plan for our lives and further away from our own plan.
 - **Notice here that Samuel did what Saul repeatedly failed to do.**
 - Obey God. Even when it doesn't make sense to us. Obey God.
 - As Samuel moves closer to God's Plan, there are **2** things that occur.
- **Trembling. (V. 4)**
 - 'Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came

to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

- The elders/leaders of Bethlehem had every right to tremble at the sight of the spiritual leader of Israel coming into their small, quiet town.

■ ***They may have been scared and trembling for three reasons...***

- #1: Samuel is coming into town with a heifer, which according to the Torah was a sign that a murder occurred in the territory and legal action needed to be taken.
- #2: Let's not forget that this little old man, Samuel, had just hacked the head of King Agag to literal pieces. They may have thought he was on a rampage.
- #3: Lastly, the reputation of Samuel. Despite the fact that the people did not always listen to Samuel, he was a respected faith leader.
- ***They trembled, because they didn't know what was in store.***
 - ***As you and I get closer to God's plan and further from our own, we might tremble, but, we must trust.***
- ***Trust. (V. 5)***

- ‘And he said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.’

- ***Word Study***

- The word ‘Consecrate’ in the English is translated from the Hebrew phrase

‘Qadash’ קָדַשׁ *which literally means to make oneself holy, sacred, or clean.*

- In this context they were to enter into ritual cleanness.
 - For Hebrews at this time this meant bathing, putting on clean clothes, and the temporary suspension of all sexual activity and not being allowed to touch a dead body.

- (Exodus 19:14-15 shows us this)

- ***Jesse and his sons have to trust that Samuel has in fact come in peacefully to Bethlehem.***

- *As they are going through this ritual cleansing I’m sure it became apparent to them and the community, that this was not just going to be a sacrifice, but a selection. An anointing was about to occur.*

- Everyone is moving towards God’s plan here with trembling and trust, but now the preferences of people start to play a part...

Point 3: *Move Away from People’s Preferences. (V. 6-10)*

- ‘When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is before him.” 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.” 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” 10 And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen these.”

- ***One of the things that keeps human beings away from being in God’s will the most, is that we focus on our own eyes and not God’s vision for our lives.***

- You would think that Samuel would’ve learned from the first time. That just because Saul was tall and handsome, that he was to be King of Israel, but obviously he didn’t learn, because he looked at Eliab and thought he was the one.

- ***Here we find a great lesson, that faithful leaders are not those that may look great on the outside, but it is also the inside that counts and matters to God.***

- *Church, if you want God to do Extraordinary things through the ordinary in your life, then those preferences you have about how things must or have to be, must be put to the side!*
 - Let's look at **2** things concerning this:
- **Man's Ideas. (V. 6)**
 - 'When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him."
 - *Surely God, you want me to marry the most attractive person on the planet?*
 - *Surely God, you want me to have the highest paying job possible?*
 - *Surely God, you want me to have all the college degrees that money can buy?*
 - *Surely God, you want me to drive the most expensive and nicest vehicle?*
 - *Surely God, you want my Church to have the most educated Pastor?*
 - *Surely God, you want my Children to have the best possible lives with the best spouse and job?*
 - *Surely God, you want me to have the nicest house in the entire neighborhood?*
 - These are just examples of our ideas on how we expect things to go and how things should be.
 - *Samuel falls into the same trap that he did before, and the same trap that you and I do.*
- If you really want God to do the extraordinary in your life, then you have to come to a foundational understanding that not all that glitters is gold...
 - Eliab was the oldest of the sons, he probably had some natural leadership skills being the oldest.
 - He was tall, handsome, good looking, this must be the king right?
 - **J.D. Greear said 'God however is unimpressed. Eliab's appearance, height, and physique do not even register as relevant qualities.'**
 - *Has it ever dawned on you and I that God never looks down from Heaven And says 'nice physique', 'nice car', 'nice haircut', or 'nice resume'?*
 - *God cares more about the heart, so why do we spend more time focusing on what others see, than we do on what only God can see? The heart.*
- **God's Plans. (V. 7-10)**
 - '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." **8** Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." **9** Then Jesse made

Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” **10** And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen these.”

- The Lord shows us two powerful things about Himself in verse 7:
 - *He knows our Thoughts.*
 - *He knows our Hearts.*
- *Verse 6 is clear, ‘he looked on Eliab and thought,’*
 - *Samuel didn’t verbalize this, he thought it, and so God responds to Samuel.*
 - What you and I think about other people, good or bad, God knows, He can read our thoughts, and He knows what we are thinking.
- In verse 7, God response by telling Samuel this:
 - ‘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.’
- *Church, you can spend your entire life making the outside of your life look a certain way.*
 - (this is a metaphor), you can have the prettiest yard, nicest cars, clothes, perfect children, and the best marriage.

But if your heart and motives aren’t right, you aren’t glorifying God.

- Let me share with you some scripture verses that affirm the truth found in 1st Samuel 16:7...
 - “And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever.’ 1st Chronicles 28:9
 - “I the LORD search the heart and test the mind,[a]to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.” Jeremiah 17:10
 - ‘For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.’ Hebrews 4:12

- ***You may be able to fool me, your spouse, your SS teacher, your employer, and your children.***

- But, you cannot fool the Lord God. He knows your heart.

- ***You and I must change our own personal vision tonight to try and seek to see others the way that God does, and not the way that we do.***

- We are the ones who are to change, and align ourselves with God's perfect plan.

Point 4: *Move Yourself Closer to God's Purpose. (V. 11-13)*

- 'Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest,[a] but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." **12** And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." **13** Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.'
- ***When we move ourselves closer to God's Purpose, we may be perplexed or confused at first, but God's Purpose will not lead us astray.***
 - By verse 11, Samuel had already looked at what he thought were all of Samuel's sons.
 - ***As we just read and studied, none of them were God's chosen person to be the anointed King.***

- ***So what Samuel is experiencing here at Jesse's home, seems to contradict what God had revealed to Him.***

- Verse 1 was very clear that the next King of Israel was going to be a son of Jesse.

- ***But every son that Samuel had met, God had rejected them as King.***

- Just imagine if you are Samuel, you're obeying the Lord, but what the Lord has told you to do, just isn't making sense.

- If that's you tonight, you're in great company, Samuel felt this way too.

- There are **5** things to point out concerning moving closer to God's Purpose in this text.

- ***Perplexed. (V. 11a)***

- 'Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?"

- ***All his life Samuel was faithful to God and the call of God, even when it hurt.***

- I'm sure the face of the old man told the entire story...

- This causes Samuel to have to ask a perplexing question: ***Jesse, are all your kids here? Did you forget any of them??***

- Samuel knows what God has told him to do, but is still perplexed in the matter until Jesse says, 'well there is 1 more....'

- And he said, “There remains yet the youngest,[a] but behold, he is keeping the sheep.”
- *The son who the entire family had pushed outside, away from everyone, keeping sheep, was about to be known by everyone, because he was first known by God.*
- **His Physical stature. (V. 11b)**
 - ‘And he said, “There remains yet the youngest,’
 - ***Word Study***
 - Jesse reveals to Samuel that there is one more son, but why would he matter? He was the youngest. Or, is this what that means?
 - **Yes, David was the youngest of Jesse’s sons, but that is not precisely what this Hebrew word means...**
 - The word ‘youngest’ is translated from the Hebrew word **‘Qaton’ קָטוֹן**, only occurs 4 times in the OT, but each time it means small in measurement.
 - David was the youngest, but he was the Smallest.
 - **David was also the shortest of his brothers. We just read and studied the verses where the physical description of the other brothers was given.**

- They were tall, David was not.
- *In the mind of Jesse, why did he matter? He wouldn’t amount to anything all he was good for was keeping sheep...*
 - *That is, until God gets involved...*
- **His Position. (V. 11c)**
 - ‘but behold, he is keeping the sheep.’ And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.”
 - Samuel is no doubt relieved that there is another son!
 - **But we must draw attention to the fact that Jesse mentions his youngest son’s position/vocation.**
 - Keeping sheep in ancient Israel was not a glamorous or coveted position.
 - J.D. Greear said **‘Keeping the sheep was not a coveted position in Israel. Slaves and social rejects were shepherds. Though demanding, it was a job that required no real skill set. No wonder the older brothers pawn this duty off on their baby brother.’**
 - Jesse mentions the position David had to obviously direct Samuel on where to go, but I also think to let him know where he stood in the family.

- *In other words, Samuel, you've got 7 great options here in you want that one?*
 - *I must point out here that this would have been a HUGE event in the family of Jesse.*
 - All of the sons, but David, were invited. Why not?
 - *It reveals Jesse's heart, that the idea or prospect of David becoming king was quite 'laughable'.*
 - You and I are often the same as Jesse. We want the best of the best, instead of letting God use ordinary people to do extraordinary things...
- **His Physical Traits. (V. 12)**
 - 'And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he."
 - *David was not chosen by God to be the king due to the physical traits he possessed, we know that God had chosen him to be king.*
 - But the writer of 1st Samuel does list the physical traits that David possesses.
 - The word translated 'ruddy' can be tough to understand.
 - *The Hebrew word it is translated from (אֲדָמוֹנִי) **admoniy** means red/bronze.*

- This word occurs in 1st Samuel 17:42, as well as Genesis 25:25, where Esau was called 'Red' from his birth.
 - *I believe ruddy means that he had reddish hair, or dark red skin.*
 - While David was not tall like Saul was, he was a handsome man according to the scripture. This is just a detail the writer gives, not the reason nor requirement for him becoming King.
 - With this anointing, we see another consistent and common thing when it comes to our God. He selects the ones that no one else seems to think are capable or worthy.
- **Power. (V. 13)**
 - 'Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.'
 - For the first time in the scriptures, David is mentioned by name.
 - ***The anointing of oil was symbolically showing those around that David was God's chosen King.***
 - *This would not be the last significant event to come out of the little town of Bethlehem, but it was a big day.*

- Scholar John L. Mackay said *'The outward rite of anointing is accompanied by the inward reality of empowerment by the Spirit.'*
 - Just as in Saul's case, the Spirit of God rushed upon David that Day.
 - The main difference, is that the Spirit of God would stay with David from that day forward, which made David's anointing superior to Saul's.
 - *From this day forward, the political landscape of Israel changed forever.*

- *What are you allowing Him to do in and through you recently?*
- What you see as ordinary God may be ready to do the extraordinary...
 - *Are you ready?*

Conclusion:

- Just as I mentioned at the beginning of our service tonight about Tom Brady.
 - *He was overlooked, and fell through the cracks of the NFL.*
 - *It was a wonder and shock to most that he was even drafted as high as he was, in the 6th round of the 2000 draft.*
 - To most, Tom Brady was a nobody, and a complete bust.
- But, Bill Belichick, Robert Kraft, and the entire Patriots organization saw enough in him, that they wanted to take a risk and draft him in the 6th round.
 - *The Lord saw in David what no one else could see, including his own father, Jesse.*
- *The Lord can and does want to do extraordinary things in the ordinary.*