

SERMON NOTES

By Pastor John Paul Miller

GROWING THROUGH CONFLICT Studies in the Life of David

I SAMUEL 16 - "Conflict Within the Family"

INTRODUCTION:

Did you know that it's impossible to predict who will be mightily used by God?

WHY?

It's possible that God has a place mapped out for you that is much greater than what you would ever dream for yourself.

This truth can be seen in God's choice of the young shepherd boy David.

There is evidence that David had been rejected by his father and brothers. If not rejected he had been surely overlooked!

Thus we will look together at the life of David using the theme of "*Growing through Conflict*"

Everyone of us faces conflict and we need to learn how to grow through it.

In times of conflict God wants to show Himself faithful in our lives.

David certainly knew about conflict, his life seemed to move from one episode of struggle to the next. From his days as a young boy at home to his deathbed. David's life was filled with conflict yet David found God to be faithful! And so will we. if

The story opens with the rejection of King Saul and God's choice of David.
(vs. 1-10)

Samuel is puzzled! (vs. 10)

He asks, in verse 11, "Are these all your children?"

Jesse's answer (vs. 11) (David is the last born)

This is our first hint that David was not a favorite son.

David was not invited to the sacrifice!

He seemed to be forgotten! (not the first time)

How about you?

David is brought (vs. 12)

Who was present at David's anointing?

"His Brethren". . . . (vs. 13) – there was conflict in the family!

Illustration: When David was sent to the battle front!
(Chps. 17-28)

Notice: Eliab's resentful heart!

Illustration: Cain

How about you?

Are you resentful?

What should you do?

Turn to God!

I'm sure David felt this rejection deeply.

As a grown man he would write, "For my father and my mother
have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me up" (Ps. 27:10)

What should a person do that feels the pain of rejection?

Turn to the Lord!

We see an important spiritual principle here:

If you want God's blessing THE **CHOICE MUST BE GOD'S** (vs. 6-7)

We like Samuel can make a wrong choice!

God makes the choice

God alone knows the heart, and the end from the beginning!

God's choice of a man is often contrary to human reason.

Illustration: (I Cor. 1:26-29) "For you see your calling"

When God chooses people for spiritual work they come from the most unexpected places. . .

Examples: Abraham, Joseph, Moses,
The Disciples

When we look for leaders we look up high, when God looks for a leader He looks down low'.

God chose David because he looked at his heart!

David is called a man after God's own heart!

What kind of heart does David have?

1. "A SHEPHERD'S HEART"

Listen to this divine commentary on God's choice of David found in Ps 78.

"He also chose David His servant, and took him from the sheepfolds; from the care of 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".

David risked his life for the lambs.

Illustration: Peter said Chap 17, "not me!"

How many of you today are willing to sacrifice for the good of others?

If David could be trusted with sheep, God knew He could trust him with men.

"Faithfulness in the pasture was transferred to faithfulness in the palace"

2. "A HUMBLE HEART"

After David was anointed! He gladly went back to tending his flocks. He didn't view this as beneath him.

(I Peter 5:6) "Humble yourself. . . under the. . ."

David was willing to wait for God to raise him up !14 Years

As he was waiting, he was serving!

3. "A SERVING HEART"

David played his harp for Saul's troubled heart!

He became Saul's armor bearer!

Lesson: to lead you must first learn to serve!

"The best leaders, said Tozer, are those who do not aspire to leadership, but are conscripted by God. Those who wish to lead must learn to serve; they must wait for God to thrust them into the spotlight that leadership necessitates. Men choose leaders with one checklist, God uses another."

4. "A WORSHIPING HEART"

"As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for Thee, O God, My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; when shall I come and appear before God? "(Ps 42:1-2)

Even David's pain would push him into the arms of God and cause him to praise!

God alone was the all-satisfying object of his life!

How about you?

5. "A FORGIVEN HEART"

*David knew the bitterness of committing sin!

But he knows how to confess his sin, and so knew the blessing of being cleansed!

Psalms 51

1. Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.
2. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
3. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.
4. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in they sight:
7. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
8. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.
9. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.
10. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
17. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

David gave to God his sinful and broken heart and the Lord put the pieces back together!

How about you?

Sometimes it seems God puts His hand on the wrong person. He chooses those who would be considered the least likely to succeed and elevates them to a position of responsibility.

The story is told of Queen Victoria of England who used to tell people she was thankful for the letter "M" in the Bible. When asked what she meant she would quote First Corinthians chapter one where it says, "you see you're calling brother, not many wise, not many noble, not many foolish are chosen. I'm thankful that he didn't say, "not any wise, not any noble, not any foolish". I'm thankful for the letter "M".

Erwin Lutzer

We cannot predict whom God will choose for positions of responsibility. He takes those who are in the shadows and brings them into the light. He takes someone whose family has "written him off," and inscribes his name in the Book of Life. The lowly are exalted and the mighty are brought low. "He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes, with the princes of His people" (Ps 113:7-8).

If you have felt neglected in your family; if you feel that God has forgotten about you while others are chosen for special privileges, take heart. Let God love you; let Him be the object of your concentration; do His will, whether great or small. Take as much time as you need in His presence to point your heart like an arrow in His direction. Your friends have one opinion of you. God has another. Guess whose matters most?