

Called to Serve 1 Samuel 16

Sarah Smith was in the news a couple of years ago.

Here you see her with her mother.

When she was 29 this LA woman gave  
an important speech at the Vatican in Rome.

Here she is with the Pope.

This is what she said: listen carefully

"I grew up feeling that I was the same as my friends,  
except for having numerous surgeries and  
physical complications.

The only difference I felt was an incredible loneliness and  
a knowledge that something was missing.

I never felt whole.

I battled with severe depression and found  
myself dying of anorexia nervosa at age 12.

It was then that my mother told me the truth.

She sat next to me, took my hand,

looked me in the eyes and said,

"Sarah, you are a twin. I aborted your twin brother and  
tried to abort you too.

Please know I did not know what I was doing and I  
pray someday you are able to forgive me.

I love you and need

you to know that you are a welcome part of our family."

Wow what an awful confession.

At that moment, Sarah says,

I knew what I had been missing all my life and

at that moment I knew I was called to

something much greater than I had knowledge of. Immediately I felt the  
overwhelming pain of the

knowledge that I should be dead.

As I stand before you today, she said,

I am painfully aware that this is only possible,  
my life is only possible because my twin brother  
took a scalpel for me, and

I stand in his place and his memory,

giving him honor and a face. A profound speech.

At age 12 Sarah Smith learned that she should not be alive.

She was alive only because the doctor who did the

abortion on her mother didn't know there  
were twins in the womb.

And so Sarah lived the life that was not supposed to be.

She lived the life knowing that each  
day was a gift of grace.  
It's an amazing thing to realize you should be dead but  
are alive only by the grace of God.  
In her speech Sarah said that it was this realization  
that her life was a gift of God  
that made her realize that she was called to  
something much greater than she had knowledge of.

David, like Sarah, should not have lived.

The whole point of our studying the book of Ruth last  
month, was to tell us that David and his family  
should not have existed.

Elimelech and Naomi's family was as good as aborted  
from Israel.

But by the grace of God, Obed that servant Redeemer  
was born, and Jesse was born, and David was born.  
They should not have been.

And it's only when we meet David that we begin to  
understand what God is doing.

That God wants to call this out of death,  
this out of nothing family, who should not be alive,  
who was created out nothing,  
who was produce out death and infertility  
and old age by grace.

It is only when we meet David that we begin to see  
that God has plan for this family and David.

A plan that is greater than David and  
even Samuel had knowledge of.

And so today we get a glimpse of what God is up to with  
this family that should not have been.

Not only should David not have ever lived,

but now that he did lived,

we from our human perspective would not have  
picked him as the one who would bring about  
God's plan and God's eternal kingdom.

We would not have picked him for kingdom service.  
To be an elder or deacon.

When we think of kingdom building.

When we think of building the house of God,  
when we think of building the church we

are often just like Samuel and the people of Israel.

We pick the legitimate people, the consecrated people,

the strong people, the people with connections and power.  
We pick the people with great resumes and  
impeccable credential.

When Israel first picked a king they picked the tallest,  
the strongest, the most likable man in the country, Saul.  
But God rejected him.

God did not chose him to build his house and his family.  
So God sent his servant Samuel to anoint another  
person, a person of God's choosing.  
A person from this out of nothing family.  
This family that should not have been.

And when Samuel came to Bethlehem he was full of  
expectation and hope.  
God was choosing his servant to build his  
house and his family.  
He would be from the line of Jesse and Ruth and Tamar.  
And as we read, in no uncertain terms God chooses David.

When we pick we are like Samuel.  
We look at the consecrated ones and we  
line them up with our human hopes and perspectives.  
And we go for the strongest and most attractive.  
We go by outward appearances.  
Samuel did it again in Bethlehem with the  
seven sons of Jesse.

But each time Samuel thought he had discover the one;  
God said no. He's not the one.  
Samuel had all seven of Jesse's sons parade before him.  
But each time God said no. He's not the one.

You see God does not look at people and situations  
the way people do.  
God does not look at the outward appearance of things,  
God looks at the heart.  
God looks at the heart of a person or situation.  
And in this case God chose David.  
Not the strong one, not the consecrated one,  
not the older and wiser,  
But David the runt of the family, the pure in heart.  
The one who didn't fit. The eighth child.  
The youngest.  
The one not included in the family.  
The one doing the shepherd work.  
The one no one expected. He is the one God chose.

And when God picked David out  
this family that should not have been,  
God said to Samuel. Arise and anoint him in the  
presence of his brothers and sisters and family.  
And when God anoints he calls them into his service.  
He calls them into his plan and his mission.  
A mission that is greater than we have knowledge of.  
Much greater

David was a nobody, from a dead in the water family.  
Yet God raise him up to be the greatest king of all Israel.  
And the reason why David became the man after  
god's own heart,  
the man who brought the golden age of the people of God,  
the one who would give us the vision for the kingdom is  
contained in this chapter.

You see when God calls,  
when God anoints  
when God desires to use someone to serve him,  
God also pour his spirit on them.  
The moment David was anointed the bible tells,  
probably at the age of about 12  
that very day  
the spirit of God came upon David with Power.  
And he went on to serve God in a powerful  
way throughout his life.  
And David's service begins with Saul.  
And the nature of his service  
the nature of his kingdom,  
the nature of his ministry is seen in his ministry to Saul.

The first thing we notice about David after he is anointed  
with the Spirit of God is that God equips  
David with supernatural skill.  
David by the spirit of God became the most skilled  
musician in the nation.  
He was given a spiritual gift for spiritual service.  
And as he used his gift he became  
a channel of healing for Saul.  
Saul we are told was tormented by an injurious spirit.  
A spirit of depression. A spirit of failure.  
A spirit of feeling that God had departed from him.  
A spirit of aloneness and alienation.  
But when David, the anointed one,  
the one called by God, the one filled with god's spirit,

when David played his harp with such skill, a  
wonderful feeling of relief and grace came over  
Saul, he would feel better,  
that injurious spirit, that spirit of depression  
that spirit of alienation would leave him.  
And he would feel whole.  
He would feel blessed again.  
But not only did David's music and songs heal Saul.  
David became a channel of healing for the people of  
God through out the ages, with his music and his songs.  
Even to day people are comforted and strengthened  
and bless when the words of Psalm 23 are  
spoken over them  
Or when the words of psalm 27 or 139 are read this  
amazing spirit of healing comes over them.

What so profound about the message of the bible is that  
in the OT God called only a few,  
only a few are anointed into this ministry of grace  
and healing,  
only a few are filled with the spirit and given  
spiritual gifts for the building up of God's house.

Today however, the bible tells  
God chose all those who are in Christ, and  
God anoint all the people in his family with his spirit,  
and he chose all those who follow Jesus to be the channels  
of his healing grace.  
1 Peter 2 You are God's chosen, royal priests  
baptized by the spirit to declare God's praises and  
administer God's grace. To speak the very words of God.

We like David, and Sarah should not be alive in Christ.  
As children of God we should be dead.  
But because Jesus took the scalpel for us,  
we live in his place and in his name  
we live in honor of him giving him a face.  
We too live by grace.  
We should be dead in our misery and our sin.  
We should be separated from God aliens and strangers  
to his family.  
But by the grace of God through David and  
his out of nothing family and his  
out of nothing grandson,  
Jesus Redeemed us and rescued us from that spirit of

the world that can so torment us and  
run us down and injure us.

Through Jesus we, like David,  
are called by God and filled with God's spirit and  
each of us has been given a spiritual gift,  
a supernatural gift, that  
if we use it will make an eternal difference in the  
lives of others.

And so we too are gifted to serve in God's mission,  
called to a ministry  
called to something much greater than we have  
knowledge of.

We through power of God are called to serve  
called be a channels of God's grace to others.

My friends, God does not look at our outward appearance,  
or our credentials, or our abilities, or our knowledge.

God looks at the heart.

God calls those with a pure heart,  
with a heart for righteousness and peace,  
with a heart for the kingdom,  
with a heart for the lost and the broken,  
and God calls them and fills them with his spirit and  
gifts them for his service and  
makes them channels of peace and healing.

God can do that to you and me too!

Sarah Smith too was a broken vessel.

She didn't have much going for her.

She was depressed and dying of anorexia.

But her heart longed for God,  
her heart thirsted for God,  
she longed for that wholeness.

And when she realized that her life was gift of God,  
a gift of grace,

when she realized that she should not have been  
she sensed in a deep way God's call on her life.

And God filled her with his spirit and  
she began a ministry of healing that culminated in her  
giving that profound speech in the Vatican.

God used her to heal lives of many.

The news caption beneath their picture read.

In 1970, Betty tried to abort Sarah in Los Angeles.

At the time Betty did not know she was pregnant

with twins. One baby was aborted, but miraculously,  
Sarah survived.  
Sarah has forgiven her mother—  
and for five year they traveled the world speaking  
together about the pain and suffering caused by abortion.

My friends, we too are here for a purpose.

We are called to bring glory to God;  
to be Christ in the world, like David.

We too are saved by grace, called, anointed, and  
gifted by the spirit to share the grace of God with others.

God does not look at our appearance, or our skills,  
or how long we've been a Christian,  
or our connections, or talents.

God looks at the heart.

And as God looks at the heart

God raises ordinary people like you and me,  
even dead people, little people, depressed people,  
broken people

to do extra ordinary things

to build up God's people and his church.

That's God for you.

Creating out nothing beauty and grace for his Glory.

To God be the glory. Amen?