

We're continuing to talk a little bit about Samuel this week. Last week we were introduced to him. He was a young boy, a man at the time very little. And he's trying to figure out his whole place with God. Because remember he was sleeping, and God was speaking to him in the middle of the night. And he did not necessarily recognize that it was God speaking to him, that he could hear him.

Now today, Samuel is much, much, much older, and over the years he's been proven to always be correct. He's the most prolific prophet. There is everything he says from God comes through. But now he's like in his 80s, and Saul does not like anything at all that Samuel's telling him because everything that Saul's doing God doesn't agree with. God didn't originally like the idea of having a king for his people, but the people needed it. They needed that leader. They needed somebody to follow, so they avoided Saul. God said, okay, this is what you want. This is what you get. Here we go, and at first Saul listens to everything God was telling him. Samuel was giving him all the best advice. Everything was working. Saul got a little arrogant and started to make his own decisions. He started to lead himself down a path that necessarily didn't agree with what God wanted. And so that made Samuel look kind of bad. Because Samuel would say that these things were going to happen, but then Saul changes his mind, and things wouldn't.

So they start the question, Samuel. He started to question his ability, and that happens a lot in life, right? Something happens, and people start questioning. We're not exactly certain to believe and what not to believe. Especially now, everything happens around us instantaneously. We don't always have time to fact check, but you never thought that'd be a phrase that you would use fact-check. I never thought I'd have to say that up here, but it affects how we do things. It affects things very quickly, and so Samuel's fighting all kinds of things, and he's thinking about well, maybe it's time for me just to call it. Because I know I go back, and I have to have those hard conversations. And he's always the one that has to have the hard conversations, the ones that people don't necessarily want to hear. But he does it. He does it. His faith in God is so strong he recognizes he's got to do it. He's got to have those hard conversations. And this is one that he does not want to have because he knows, more than likely, he's going to end up dead from it. Saul was gonna find out; he's gonna get mad. He's gonna kill him, but he still does it. He still has that faith to follow God through his footsteps, no matter what the reasoning behind it. So he does.

Now, it's interesting reading this story in a different translation because they don't all say the same thing. They don't all say that David was the youngest child. They don't all say that he was the eighth child. They don't all even say that he was Jesse's child.. That's a lot of confusion in this story, because who is David really? God has decided that this person is going to be the king in the newest Covenant that God is going to make with the people. But the people don't all agree on who he is, which makes it even more confusing for us. So many years later, hearing this story again because we've all heard it before, right?

We've all known we all know who King David is. We know that he was a shepherd. We know that he was small and frail in comparison to the rest of his brothers. Why would God pick this person? What does God see in him that everybody else there doesn't? David gets ascribed as being the youngest because he's the smallest? The word is interchangeable in their language at that time. So, here's the smallest, the least desirable for this position. But God still sees in him something that nobody else does. We are talking about something like that in confirmation today. How God sees in each one of us, something that nobody else can see

because we spent so much time looking at everyone's outside. We look at their physical attributes. We look at the money they make, the jobs they have, their possessions. We focus so much on the Earthly realm that we forget what God has written on each one of our hearts. We forget that God doesn't see us the way we see ourselves. We might not have the confidence in somebody because we look at them, and we don't see who they truly are. Either because we can't, or because they won't let us. There's always something that hides us that blinds us from seeing the truth if we don't allow God to give us that light, God sees something wonderful, majestic in each one of you.

Some days I can't even see it for myself. I know God has a plan for me. I know God wants great things and has confidence that I can do things that I don't have confidence in myself. And that's hard. I think it's hard to wake up some days. It's hard to get out of bed some days. But I know that God sees more in me than I see in myself. And I know when somebody comes to me with a question, more an idea God gave him that purpose for a reason. I might think the idea is outlandish and a lot of Alyssa's I do. But I know that there's a purpose for it. I know they have an idea that I can't see. They have a vision that's greater than my own being. That's what God was doing when he said to Samuel when they said, go and find him, find David. Samuel even says, I can't imagine I can't see what God sees in this person, but then he still had the faith to believe that God knows. God has the intention to do what's best for everyone, whether we see it or know it. We have to have the faith that this is all going to work out. That it's all going to be great. And then, eventually, we're all going to understand. But it's hard to have that faith somedays. But believe me, if it was easy, everybody could do it, right? God knows that, and they have faith in each one of us, as we should have faith in them. Let us pray.