

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

Gods prince: The life of David

INTRODUCTION | God's mysterious choice

In today's scripture we see the story of King David's discovery. First, I want to see how God even in difficult circumstances is guiding and leading with paradoxical grace. Secondly, not from the outside but from the inside, from the head we are being made. It is important to see how we are being recreated from the inside out. Thirdly, God chooses the weak and small things to accomplish big things. The three points are the paradoxical work of God, the inside-out work of God and God's mysterious choosing.

SCRIPTURE | Samuel 16:1-13

16 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." 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?" 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. 6 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." 11 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.

QUESTIONS |

- 1: (verses 1-3) At this time in the history of Israel's monarchy, the kingdom found itself in unstable times. According to verses 1-3 what was the basis of fear and anxiety?
- 2: In the midst of difficult times a new king was discovered in Israel. For us, how should we look at our difficult circumstances? (ref 1 Cor 10:13)
- 3: (verses 6-10) What was the standard used by God to find his new king? How is this different from the way we evaluate things in our normal lives?
- 4: We can say "People look at the exterior but God looks at the heart." How does this apply to our daily lives? If that is the case, what amazing points emerge? (Ref Steven Covey)
- 5: (Verses 11-13) From what kind of place was David chosen? What did the people around David think of him? (Ref 1 Cor 1:27-29)
- 6: What kind of influences of God's mysterious choosing can you see in your own life? (Ref Max Lucado)

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REFERENCES |

1 Samuel 15:35

35 And Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel.

1 Corinthians 10:13

13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Stephen Covey 「The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People」 (p.45)

“7 Habits” principles are at the center. Personality in the base for personal growth, significant relationships are cultivated from the inside-out. Inside-out is the principle of changing oneself first, oneself root paradigm, personality, motivations and other personal factors are to be changed first.

1 Corinthians 1: 27-29

27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being[d] might boast in the presence of God.

Max Lucado: “Like David” p.22

David, what does it mean that he was a man after God’s own heart? God looking on David in this way gives us all hope. David could certainly not be considered a person free from guilt and defilement. The straight A type of person who reads the David’s story will inevitably feel disappointed. We, who are not straight A types can feel comforted. David, a man loved by God was man who was covered in weakness and sin. For us, the story of David is a necessary read.

PRAYER |

· You have looked on your difficult circumstances with humanly eyes let the light of Christ shine on these circumstances and repent.

· If you do not put your hope in the Lord but rather are calling upon other people or some other power turn your head to the Lord.

UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

Lunchtime meeting (Akasaka 9/6, Kasumigaseki 9/7, Otemachi 9/8)
Sunday corporate worship (9/11 Nihonbashi F-tower *location change)
Walk Through The Bible study #7 (9/11)
Gospel Choir (9/12)
Lunchtime meeting (9/13 Otemachi)
Obento Project (9/17)
Walk Through The Bible #8 (9/18)
Sunday corporate worship (9/18)