

Title: Shepherd to a King

Date: October 27, 2013

Text: I Samuel 16:7-13

Place: Decatur Church of God

Theme: The Story

Introduction: Three golfers got struck by lightning and ended up at the pearly gates of heaven. They asked St Peter if there was golf in heaven. St Peter assured them that there was incredible golf in heaven, but there was just one rule: Don't hit a duck.

As they played, one of the guys hit a duck. St Peter approached with a not-so-gorgeous woman, homely in fact, and said, "You're the one who hit a duck." St Peter handcuffed the homely woman to the man and they took off to be that way for all eternity.

The two others continued to play and eventually another one hit a duck. Sure enough, St Peter approached with another un-gorgeous woman and handcuffed her to the one who hit the duck and they were that way for all eternity. The last guy continued to play.

One day St Peter approached with a knock-down, gorgeous woman and handcuffed this stunning beauty to the guy. Elated, the last golfer said, "I don't know what I did to deserve this!" The gorgeous woman said, "I hit a duck."

This is a funny story with a sad truth. Our world judges on externals, by how we look on the outside. God does not make judgments on externals. God looks at the heart. God also wants his people to resist judging on externals. We see this truth in The Story as we come to the anointing of David as Israel's king.

I. David is chosen as king. 1 Samuel 16-17

A. God saw David with the potential of a king.

Psalm 78:70-72

He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; [71] from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of Israel his inheritance. [72] And David

shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.

1. David was fully engaged in caring for his sheep
 2. David protected and rescued his sheep from danger.
 3. David, most importantly, was a man after God’s own heart.
- B. Others did not see David with the potential of a king.
1. Jesse, David’s father, did not even summon David when Samuel came to anoint a new king.
 2. David’s older brother scolded David for leaving his sheep to come and watch the battle with the Philistines.
 3. King Saul viewed David as mere boy and not king material.
 4. Goliath called David “a stick” just before David killed him.
- C. Jonathan, Saul’s son and successor to the throne, saw David with the potential of a king (Jonathan gives David his royal robe).

1 Samuel 18:4

Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.

II. David goes into “boot camp” to be trained as a king.

- A. Saul, who is hostile to David, is God’s tool to train David in godly, kingly character.

- B. David lives as a fugitive, depending on God for guidance and help.
- C. After 14 years of training, David is ready to represent God and God's character and he is inaugurated as king over Israel.

III. David as king points to “the One” Who will come as the Messiah (Jesus).

- A. David and Jesus are of the same tribe and city.
- B. David was anointed with oil; Jesus was anointed with the Spirit.
 (“anointed one” is the same as “messiah”)
- C. Other parallels to Jesus in The Story so far.
1. Jesus is the Passover Lamb (Exodus)
 2. Jesus and Joshua mean the same: Savior
 3. Jesus is the ultimate “deliverer” (Judges)
 4. Jesus is the Redeemer (Ruth)

Application:

I want to read to you the names of 12 of our nations most famous lawyers. One of them was a law school dropout.

- Patrick Henry, member of the Continental Congress and governor of Virginia
- John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
- John Marshall, another Supreme Court Chief Justice
- William Wirt, a US Attorney General
- Roger Taney, First Secretary of the Treasury and a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
- Daniel Webster, a Secretary of State
- Salmon Chase, a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
- Abraham Lincoln, lawyer and President of the US
- Stephen Douglas, a senator from Illinois that debated Lincoln

- Clarence Darrow, lawyer at the Scopes, so-called monkey trial of 1925
- Robert Storey, President of the American Bar Association
- Strom Thurmond, governor and senator from South Carolina

Which one of them abandoned law school after the first year, never to return. Clarence Darrow! “That’s right, this famous lawyer only had one year of law school under his belt.

Oh, yeah, the other eleven, the most distinguished American lawyers, could not have dropped out of law school, because they never went to law school at all.

What is your potential? What do you see in the lives of others around you?

1. We all need just one person in our lives (a Jonathan) that will see us with great potential to be what God wants us to be.
2. Just as both David and Jesus were underestimated by others (judged on externals), so we can expect to be underestimated, too. We often underestimate ourselves.
3. Just as David and Jesus went through a season of testing, so God will test us as well so that we can develop character and integrity to represent God to our world.

What does God see in you that everyone else is missing? Are you willing, available, for his use?