

COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER SERMON SUMMARY, 01/26/14

1 Samuel 16 — “The Man of God’s Own Choosing,” Ryan Kelly

In short: Defying human intuition, God rejects Saul as king and anoints the young David.

SUNDAY’S OUTLINE

1. Samuel’s Unshakable Sadness (1a)
2. God’s Sure Plan (1b-5)
3. Samuel’s Vain Search (6-10)
4. God’s Surprising Choice (11-13) (Well, is it really surprising?)
5. God’s Spirit Moving (13-14)
6. David’s Unique Service (15-23)

HELP FOR UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING THE SERMON TEXT

1. There are several indications of God’s sovereignty in this story. What two indications do we see even in the three verses?
2. Verse 7 comes to us with a penetrating insight about the difference between us and God. Ryan lingered on this for a few minutes. Where is this tendency to evaluate things on externals especially evident in your life? In our culture? In our church? When in the last year have you made a decision based on externals that, in hindsight, was clearly not for that reason wise or honoring to God? How can God’s perfect knowledge of the heart both encouraging and discouraging?
3. This chapter highlights God’s pleasure in working in inverse ways. Where else in Scripture do we see God’s surprising ways at work?
4. How does this story of God’s anointing of weakness lead us to the cross? How did association with Jesus mean shame for Christians in the first century? How does it mean shame for us now?

QUOTES, ILLUSTRATIONS, AND OTHER MATERIAL FROM THE SERMON

- **God looks on the heart.** “What’s impressive to us? What gets our attention and respect? Who we want to be friends with? Who will get our vote in the next election? How do you choose a mate? No one tries to marry an ugly girl. But Proverbs says beauty is vain. This might relate to how you choose a church. How does a church choose its leaders? On what basis? How quick are we to know what someone else is thinking, feeling, or doing? (ie, judge motives). Verse 7 also raises the scary question of what God sees in us. There’s no duping God! And yet this reality can be very encouraging at times, when we’re wronged, mocked, or misrepresented. God sees it all.”
- **God loves to work in inverse ways.** “He flips things around; he goes bottom up, not top down. His ways are not our ways, nor his thoughts our thoughts. As it was in his choice of David, so it was in sending his Son. He came in poverty, weakness, and humility. His kingship was cloaked, and most couldn’t see it. They said, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” They said, “Isn’t this Mary and Joseph’s son?” They said “why does he eat with sinners?” They said, “a Messiah does not suffer and die.” They said, “if you really are the Son of God then come down from the cross”
- **The Gospel is foolishness:** 1 Corinthians 1:29
- **God’s strength is perfected in weakness:** 2 Corinthians 12:9