

So You Think God Can't Use You?

1 Samuel 16:1-13

INTRODUCTION

Many of us find ourselves wanting to be used of God. We catch ourselves in some moment longing to be used by the Almighty and as quickly as it comes, Satan reminds us of what we've done, and that moment quickly fades away. We say to ourselves, "***How could God use me, I don't have...?***" Then we list out all of the ridiculous reasons in which we believe that God could never use us. We make our case before Heaven why the One who brought something out of knowing in the beginning when God created the Heavens and the Earth is somehow now unable to use a feeble life like ours. Most of us live illogically wondering why happiness never finds us.

So this morning I want to begin with a piece of a poem I've heard many times that may get us thinking in the right direction.

When God Wants a Man (Anonymous)

When God wants to drill a man and thrill a man and skill a man...
When God wants to mold a man to play the noblest part;
When He yearns with all His heart to create so great and bold a man that all the world shall praise...
Watch His methods;
Watch His ways!

How He ruthlessly perfects whom He royally elects...
How He hammers him and hurts him,
And with mighty blows converts him
Into frail shapes of clay that only God understands. How his tortured heart is crying and he lifts
beseeching hands...
How he bends but never breaks when His good he undertakes.
How He uses whom He chooses...with every purpose fuses him;
By every art induces him to try His splendor out...
God knows what He's about!

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long are you going to mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem because I have selected a king from his sons."

Samuel asked, "How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me!"

The LORD answered, "Take a young cow with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will let you know what you are to do. You are to anoint for Me the one I indicate to you."

Samuel did what the LORD directed and went to Bethlehem. When the elders of the town met him, they trembled and asked, "Do you come in peace?"

“In peace,” he replied. “I’ve come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and said, “Certainly the LORD’s anointed one is here before Him.”

But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or his stature, because I have rejected him. Man does not see what the LORD sees, for man sees what is visible, but the LORD sees the heart.”

Jesse called Abinadab and presented him to Samuel. “The LORD hasn’t chosen this one either,” Samuel said. Then Jesse presented Shammah, but Samuel said, “The LORD hasn’t chosen this one either.” After Jesse presented seven of his sons to him, Samuel told Jesse, “The LORD hasn’t chosen any of these.” Samuel asked him, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” he answered, “but right now he’s tending the sheep.” Samuel told Jesse, “Send for him. We won’t sit down to eat until he gets here.” So Jesse sent for him. He had beautiful eyes and a healthy, handsome appearance.

Then the LORD said, “Anoint him, for he is the one.” So Samuel took the horn of oil, anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the Spirit of the LORD took control of David from that day forward. Then Samuel set out and went to Ramah.

I. God Doesn’t Judge The Way Mankind Judges

2 Corinthians 10:12

For we don’t dare classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. But in measuring themselves by themselves and comparing themselves to themselves, they lack understanding.

Matthew 19:30

But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

John 7:24

Jesus said, “Stop judging according to outward appearances; rather judge according to righteous judgment.”

George Herbert

God sees hearts as we see faces.

John 2:24-25

Jesus, however, would not entrust Himself to them, since He knew them all and because He did not need anyone to testify about man; for He Himself knew what was in man.

II. God Knows What He Is Going To Do With You Before Any Of Your Successes or Failures.

Psalm 139:1-17

LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I stand up; You understand my thoughts from far away. You observe my travels and my rest; You are aware of all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue, You know all about it, LORD. You have encircled me; You have placed Your hand on me. This extraordinary knowledge is beyond me. It is lofty; I am unable to reach it.

Where can I go to escape Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? If I go up to heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, You are there. If I live at the eastern horizon or settle at the western limits, even there Your hand will lead me; Your right hand will hold on to me. If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me, and the light around me will be night” — even the darkness is not dark to You. The night shines like the day; darkness and light are alike to You.

For it was You who created my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother’s womb. I will praise You because I have been remarkably and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, and I know this very well. My bones were not hidden from You when I was made in secret, when I was formed in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in Your book and planned before a single one of them began.

God, how difficult Your thoughts are for me to comprehend...

III. Even When You Fail, God Is Not Done With You. It’s Not Your Resume That Matters, But God’s Redemption

Acts 13:21-22

²¹ Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. ²² And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.

Luke 7:47

Jesus said, “Therefore I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; that’s why she loved much. But the one who is forgiven little, loves little.”

IV. Your Inability Only Reveals God’s Ability Through You

A. Whom God calls, He equips.

B. Your excuses won’t hinder God. Consider Moses, the one who grew up in the palace of Pharaoh, who later killed an Egyptian, and who fled to save his life. .

Exodus 4:10-16

But Moses replied to the LORD, “Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent—either in the past or recently or since You have been speaking to Your servant —because I am slow and hesitant in speech.”

Yahweh said to him, “Who made the human mouth? Who makes him mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, Yahweh? Now go! I will help you speak and I will teach you what to say.”

Moses said, “Please, Lord, send someone else.”

Then the LORD’s anger burned against Moses, and He said, “Isn’t Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, he is on his way now to meet you. He will rejoice when he sees you. You will speak with him and tell him what to say. I will help both you and him to speak and will teach you both what to do. He will speak to the people for you. He will be your spokesman, and you will serve as God to him.

C. Consider Peter...

1. Abandoned the Lord when He needed him most.
2. Denied the Lord 3 times
3. Belly-flopped before the Lord with lack of faith of the Sea of Galilee
4. Yet, God used him to win 3,000 followers in one message on the Day of Pentecost and to be the early church leader.

D. Consider Paul...

1. Christian Killer
2. Religious fanatic

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers, announcing the testimony of God to you, I did not come with brilliance of speech or wisdom. For I didn’t think it was a good idea to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I came to you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a powerful demonstration by the Spirit, so that your faith might not be based on men’s wisdom but on God’s power.

E. Consider Leah & Rahab, both grandparents of Jesus

1. Leah, the homely looking, unloved wife of Jacob, but also the 37th grandmother of Jesus.
2. Rahab, the Canaanite Foreigner & Prostitute, but also the 30th grandmother of Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

David Ring Testimony