



INFO

Words From The Path.

By Pastor Ben Murphy

In the Old Testament Book of 1 Samuel we find these words written at the head of chapter 16: ¹ **Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."**

Back in the early 1960's, long before you could tune in and watch your favorite team in professional sports on TV, I would lay in my bed at night with my GE transistor radio and listen to broadcasts of the St. Louis Hawks basketball games. If you are a sports fan(atic) as I am, this was back in the days of such greats as Elgin Baylor, Jerry West, Wilt "The Stilt" Chamberlain, Bill Russell, and my favorite on the Hawks, Bob Pettit.

Things did not start out so well for Bob Pettit as a basketball player. In high school, he was cut from the varsity basketball team in both his freshman and sophomore years, but his father pushed him to practice in the backyard until he improved his skills. It worked. He became a starter as a junior and led his High School to its first State Championship in over 20 years in his senior year. After high school, Bob Pettit got a scholarship to play at Louisiana State University. He was a three-time All-Southeastern Conference selection (back then, Freshmen were ineligible) and a two-time All American as a member of the LSU men's basketball team. During those three years, he averaged 27.8 points per game. As they say, the rest is history. He went on to be an eleven time all-star in the National Basketball Association with the Hawks

where he amassed over 20,000 points in an eleven year career.

One never knows where the next great basketball, baseball, football, soccer player or great golfer will come from. Many stories exist of professional athletes and celebrities who came from total obscurity, some seemingly with few talents in their field of endeavor, but go on to achieve greatness. So it was when God selected David to be the next great ruler over Israel.

In the text in 1 Samuel, David was possibly as obscure an individual as one could imagine. He was even eighth in line for any family inheritances. First of all, he came from the area of Bethlehem that seemed to shun leaders. The people there seemed to have a natural fear of a prophet or religious leader coming to them, even though later the greatest leader of all would be born there. In the very next passage of scripture, verse 4 we read, ⁴ **So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"** Little would you expect a leader to come from within this area or from this timid group!

The Lord had sent Samuel to this man by the name of Jesse to produce His successor to the now failed King Saul. When Samuel asked to meet with the sons of Jesse, the father did not think it necessary to introduce his remaining son, the little shepherd boy, David. David was the last selection picked! I know the feeling. Have I ever told you about my basketball days? Remember when we would 'choose up sides?' One leader would select, then

the next leader would choose until all the kids were selected to be on one team or the other. In our neighborhood, a collie dog was actually selected before me one time, but we won't pursue this any further for it brings back a lot of trauma for me. (I couldn't jump very high in those days, but I wasn't married yet and had not learned the art.)

After interviewing the sons of Jesse as they were presented, Samuel said to Jesse, **"Is that all you have?"** Jesse said, **"Well WE have another, but he; well, Sam, to be honest, he ain't much!"** (I took some liberties with the actual passage here.) And the next scriptures read, **And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here."** ¹² **So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!"**

The point I wish to make here is simple. *God knows how to select leaders!* Now, at times, even God's chosen fail, but He still knows where to look to find his leaders, even though many of them come from total obscurity, as it was in David's case. Yet from this young man, eventually would come the Messiah, Jesus, born from the root of Jesse.

Now as I evaluate this scenario produced for us in I Samuel, I see many story lines. For one there is a failed chosen king, Saul by name. As well, I see the selection of a replacement from obscurity, that being of course David. Also I see a father who does not see the

“INFO” GUEST COLUMN

“My Story”

By Jillian Hall

Many people have lost the people they love. I know only a few but their grief sometimes has a never ending love, they never forget the people they lost.

I know a kid who died when he was very young. I did not care then because I had never lost someone that I loved dearly. It was a matter of time, about a month away, that my granddad died. When we lose people we love we feel as if a part of us is missing. Sometimes we get mad and turn against God, sometimes we get sad and try to get a better relationship with God and do as much as we can to see His path better. I was almost turned against God but I chose to get a better relationship with Him. Even though we lose someone, we have to remember them and we have to stay on God’s path.

“He who is filled with love is filled with God himself.”

(Saint Augustine) Thank you for my family and friends. Let them know I will love them everyday, even ones far away.

(Jillian Hall is the daughter of Garland & Missy Hall. She is a 9 year old 3rd grader at Coeburn Middle School and a singer and often used soloist in our Adventure Club musicals at WFCOG.)

A Mother's Love

There are times when only a Mother's love
Can understand our tears,
Can soothe our disappointments
And calm all of our fears.
There are times when only a Mother's love
Can share the joy we feel
When something we've dreamed about
Quite suddenly is real.
There are times when only a Mother's faith
Can help us on life's way
And inspire in us the confidence
We need from day to day.
A Mother's heart, a Mother's faith
And a Mother's steadfast love
Were fashioned by the Angels
And sent from God above.

Have a Blessed



Mothers Day!

Newsletter

Articles or information to be published in the Newsletter are due by the third Sunday of the month. Please submit to the church office.

Singers and Musicians

If you are on the monthly music schedule to sing and find you cannot do so, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. Please notify the church office of such a change. Our thanks to each of you who serve.

—The Ministries & Programming Council

When There Is A Death In The Family

If there is a death in your immediate family, (Parent, Sibling, Spouse, Child,) or in the family of a church member, please notify a member of the Benevolence Committee (listed below) so the church may send flowers and for food preparation when applicable.

—The Benevolence Committee

- Mona Orr—Chair
Phyllis Belcher
Sue Ellen Fleming
Diania Murphy
Diana Mullins

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potential of his youngest son as of yet. In addition to these, I see the wonderful coming attraction of the Son of God coming from this man’s family lineage. But the thing that stands out the most to me in this episode is the account of Samuel’s faithfulness. The Lord had said to Samuel that He was the chosen one to go and secure the replacement for Saul. Most of us would like that deal! We would deem that a position of honor and we might, just might get some national recognition on CNN for our labors. I mean to have the God of the universe choose us to select the President of the United States, yea; why not! That would be deemed as an honor, would it not? But not so with Saul. Saul said to the Lord, **“Can’t you find some one else. If Saul finds out about me, he will kill me!”** You see, this was no easy task. It was a dangerous one at best. But eventually of course, Samuel followed the instructions of God and completed the course chartered for him by the Lord himself.

And then I also have to wonder, how many of us would have done as Samuel and tried to get out of doing the will of God? Once we realize that we are not going to be recognized; once we realize it is a dangerous task; once we realize that what God calls us to do as Christians may cause some pain and suffering, how often do we try to either slip from the call or ignore it totally? I

know many people who have answered various areas of call to service from God and are very comfortable in their place. I know Sunday school teachers who have taught children for years and love what they do. I know choir leaders who have led the music for 30 or more years. I know ushers who have “ushered” all their adult lives. It’s their call and they love it. But that does not mean that these calls are wrought without burdens to carry. There are commitments, responses to doing the best we can for the Lord, and time that we could be spending doing something else for ourselves. There is sacrifice associated within every call. There is an amount of suffering and pain at times. The call on Samuel was not without pain and suffering. Read the full account in 1 Samuel 16. And then the call on David’s life would eventually lead to some crossroads that caused David to fail God. Pain and suffering is a normal part to serving in the Kingdom of God. A song that my mother and father used to sing in church says, **“It’s not an easy road we are traveling to heaven for many are the thorns on the way.”** Anytime we answer the call of God on our lives, we can expect hardships to come our way. Pain and suffering will be a part. We are not opting out just because we are in a relationship with God!

In Africa, a tribal member was

saved through the efforts of a Christian missionary in the early 19th century. When he went to the rivers edge to be baptized, he brought with him his spear and handed it to the missionary. The missionary, somewhat puzzled asked what the spear was for. The native said that he expected the missionary would want to **“drive the spear through my feet before you baptize me!”** The missionary asked what on earth made him think such a thing. The native said, **“Because I understand that I must suffer pain if I want to be a Christian.”**

God does not call for us to suffer though such rituals for him. But He does teach us through his word that our life will be challenged in many ways, and that suffering may be a part of that life. The challenge is for us to do as Samuel did, and answer God’s call to us and to do as His will directs us, and to follow the path he sets before us. That is the challenge to you who read this today. Answer God’s call to duty and service, even though you know there can be pain and suffering along the way. Make your plans today to *stay on the path with Jesus* no matter where that path may lead. No, it’s not an easy road, but the reward at the end of the path far out weighs the suffering one might endure in doing the will of God!

Amaryllis

Early one spring, I planted a couple of dozen amaryllis bulbs. With great anticipation, I watched for blooms. But weeks turned into months before the first sign of life appeared. By the end of summer, the bed of pink flowers I’d envisioned was nothing more than a scattering of green leaves.

So I pulled them all up to make room for other plants. I wasn’t about to waste another growing season.

Imagine my surprise the following spring, when a single delicate amaryllis blossom appeared. My delight quickly turned to dismay — for I realized I’d given up too soon. Had I the least bit of patience or a little faith, I might have had a glorious garden.

Then I wondered: Are there other things or people I give up on too soon? What might a little patience and faith do for a difficult relationship or troublesome circumstances?

—Kari Myers (adapted from Homiletics)





Sunday School

Heather Basham was the winner for the Sunday School attendance drawing for the month of March!

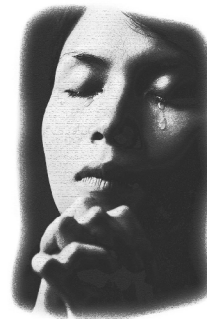
Congratulations Heather!



*Hello God
I called tonight
To Talk a little while
I need a friend who'll listen
To my anxiety and trial.
You see, I can't quite make it
Through a day just on my own....
I need Your love to guide me,
So I'll never feel alone.
I want to ask You please to keep
My family safe and sound.
Come and fill their lives with confidence
For whatever fate they're bound.
Give me faith, dear God, to face
Each hour throughout the day,
And not to worry over things
I can't change in any way.
I thank you God for being home
And listening to my call.
For giving me such good advice
Whenever I stumble and fall.
Your number, God, is the only one
That answers every time.
I never get a busy signal,
Never have to pay a dime.
So thank you, God, for listening
To my troubles and my sorrow,
Good Night, Dear God, I love You, too,
And I'll call again tomorrow!*



Submitted by Alice Livesay



*A woman who fears
the **LORD**
is to be praised.*
Proverbs 31:30

Waiting on God

On May 5, Americans observe the National Day of Prayer. Waiting on God is an important component of prayer. It's hard to understand why God delays when we cry out for help. Why does he allow us to suffer, when he could just say the word and make it all better? Why must we wait?

Consider a child whose parents always give her whatever she asks, as soon as she asks for it. That child has little opportunity to learn patience or gratitude. Because she doesn't know what it's like to not have, she cannot appreciate the true value of something.

God may have some of these things in mind when our prayers go unanswered for a time. As the psalmist exhorts, "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" (Psalm 27:14, NRSV).