

INADEQUATE, UNPREPARED BUT READY

I SAMUEL 16:10-13

¹⁰"Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these."¹¹So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."¹²So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one."¹³So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah."

How is it that you were not the favored one but yet have been chosen? How is it that you can be the underdog and come from behind and win? No one of your kind has done this before. How is it that you who is so different from everyone else and outside the norm is now preferred? How is it possible that you can rise from obscurity to fame?

God will send for you to work in the assignment and vocation He prepared for you. No one else can do the assignment God has prepared for you. Your assignment is as unique as your fingerprint or DNA. Just as a little acorn will become a mighty oak tree, you will become even greater and do greater things. The size of an acorn is typically half inch to over an inch in length which will grow to approximately seventy feet in height. An acorn will not grow up to be a pine, maple or evergreen tree because it is already chosen to be an oak tree. It takes approximately twenty years for an oak tree to produce acorns. Before the oak tree produces acorns, it is inadequate because it cannot survive on its own. It needs moisture and protection to survive. But when the oak tree produces acorns and the acorns fall to the ground those that survive animal pilfering, will grow into what they are predetermined and ready to be – oak trees. With time, protection and nurturing what may appear to be small or insignificant is on a preset trajectory of greatness.

REFLECTIONS OF A GIANT

1 SAMUEL 17:50-51

50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him. *51* David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the scabbard. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword.

Do you take an inventory of your life? When do you take inventory of your life? How often? Do you examine your heart as well as your behavior? Do you own or dismiss your areas for improvement and shortcomings? Have you found yourself wishing you could change or reverse something you said or did?

The first reflections of Goliath happen during a rapid descent in values, judgment, miscalculations, political posturing and self-promotion. The reflections of a giant are the waning moments of success when Goliath wishes he had treated people better, exercised more patience, gave more generously, showed more compassion and acted more fairly. Personal reflections reveal the erosion of humanity, the absence of humility and the vestiges of honor. The giant's reflections take place when all of a sudden something hits him upside the head and he realizes he has few friends, no spouse, little respect and not much time left. These reflections reveal that after this plunge, no scars will heal. There will be no need for bandages, ointment, stitches, a gurney, casts or a prescription. No need to call ahead with vitals because there are no vitals.

As spectators watch and onlookers gawk, no one runs to give resuscitation. People are not waiting for him to be revived because they have had enough of him. They are waiting for the relief that comes when he takes his last breath. There are no vitals but the semi-conscious giant is now feeling the weight of the world standing over him. The weight of the world as he initially perceives it is David standing over him. As the giant's breath becomes more labored, he sees David leaning over him to remove his sword from the sheath and suddenly he realizes the weight of the world he thought he felt was not David but God. As he hears the sword coming out of the sheath and the whipping sound of the sword in the air toward his head, there are now seconds left for one last reflection – prayer – calling on the God that he once defied.

We have no control over when we are going to die or even how we are going to die, but we do have control over how we live. If you see any semblance or parts of a Goliath in you, you have an opportunity to change your life, improve relationships, foster friendships, attract admirers, increase peace, mentor leaders, speak life, and live a more fulfilling and rewarding life. As God bestows new mercies and grace upon us every day, He gives each of us the same opportunity to look at our lives and reflect on who we are and decide if we are ready to make a change. As you reflect on your life today, if you decide that you are not prepared or ready to make changes, God is going to give you a new portion of mercies and grace tomorrow.

ALREADY CHOSEN

I SAMUEL 13:13-14

¹³"You acted foolishly," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. ¹⁴But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

I SAMUEL 16:1

¹The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

How is it that you can be chosen for a role when you did not ask, petition, politic, solicit or campaign for it? How is it that you can be placed in a role you did not ask for and be exceptionally successful in it? How can you win when you are considered an outsider, an underdog and a long shot?

While Samuel was still mourning for Saul, God had selected David. God did not reveal the name to Samuel or Saul but He had already made His selection. While Jesse was parading his sons in front of Samuel but did not include the youngest one, God had already chosen David. Before David was called from the hills back to his father's home to meet Samuel, God had chosen him. By most accounts, if you compared young David's leadership potential to Noah, Moses, Joshua, Daniel or David's oldest brother, one would look at David and say he was inadequate and unprepared. By virtue of his age, size or experience some would also say he was inadequate and unprepared for most things outside of shepherding. However, the dismissal of his experience did not negate the fact that David was already chosen. God knew David's heart. He knew the plan for David's life. He knew David was ready.

God pre-selected you for a particular position. He looked down from heaven, passed by everyone else and chose you. When He assessed future needs of families, organizations, churches, communities and corporations, you were His choice to

lead them. Before the need and circumstances presented themselves, you were already chosen because you had the right temperament, spirit, humility and heart. At a predetermined time, your experiences and life's opportunity will intersect to send you into your assignment. God chose you because of the choices you made; prayer over preying, obedience over obstinance, deference over defiance, contrition over conspiracy and blessing over blaming. Your decisions were not always easy, but when you had to choose between serving the world and serving the Lord, you chose the Lord.

The knowledge that God has already chosen you for your next position or role should bring comfort, peace, security and freedom to your life. You can be content that where you are now is where you are supposed to be. God is in control and He is ordering your steps. This does not mean that you become unmotivated, passive and complacent. This means that you do not have to orchestrate, dominate or manipulate the outcome. You do not need to conspire, blame, accuse and undermine others to get what you want. You can act in a spirit of integrity. You already have what you need. The path is already paved. The resources are already provided. The outcome is already worked out.

Readiness Reflection and Review

When you reflect on your life, what would you have done differently? What do you like when you look in the mirror? What don't you like when you look in the mirror? How can you change the reflection of your life to others? How can you change the reflection of you to yourself? How can you change your reflection of God? How can you change your reflection to God?