

HEROES OF FAITH - KING DAVID
"God Chose the Youngest"
1 Samuel 16:1-13

INTRODUCTION ... It seems right to end this series of sermons about HEROES OF FAITH with KING DAVID, king of Israel, a man that God's people afterwards looked-back to with respect and with hope ... they looked-back to see David's kingdom, and they waited for a new king - the one God promised, the Savior (Messiah)! - to be a king like David and to have a kingdom like David's ... today we want to see again that faith depends on and trusts God's mercy ... for in David, GOD CHOSE THE YOUNGEST to be king.

I. "Hello! I am David ...

"You know that I was a famous king of Israel. But do you know how and why I became king? ... maybe you think, because I killed that giant GOLIATH while I was still a young shepherd boy - everyone knows that story, right? ... true, that event made me famous in Israel, and maybe led some dis-satisfied people to prefer me to King Saul - you know how that happens in any nation ... but that was not the reason why I became king. Or maybe you think, people picked me as king because I wrote beautiful psalms, like Psalm 23 - 'The Lord is my Shepherd' ... no, that's not the reason ... really, people did not pick me as king - we had no election.

"I became king because God chose me ... and He did not choose me because I was the strongest soldier or the wisest leader or the best-looking man around. Let me explain how it happened: God had picked Saul to be king, because the people wanted a king to lead them ... so God told Samuel - you remember him from last week? - to anoint Saul to show that God chose him. But soon Saul disobeyed God's will, not just once or twice, but often ... so God rejected Saul ...

God decided to pick a new king, even though that man would not immediately become king. So God told Samuel to go to Bethlehem, because He had chosen one of my father's 8 sons to be king ... when Samuel saw my oldest brother, he thought God had chosen him - he was strong, tall, looked like a king ... God said, 'Not that one!' ... and the same for all 7 of my brothers ... God said, 'You may look at outward appearances, but I look at the heart' ... I wasn't even there, I was taking care of the sheep - no one thought I was worthy ... but now my father called me - and immediately God told Samuel, 'He is the one - I have chosen him!'

"Why did God choose me to be king? ... because He saw how pure my heart was? - no! ... He knew the sin in my heart, like the sin in your hearts, the sin that later led me to adultery with Bathsheba and murder of her husband - God knew that I would do those awful things! Then why did God choose me? ... one word - MERCY! ... I was the youngest (still a teen), not yet qualified ... but in His mercy God chose me to be king, and with faith I served Him ... and when I sinned, with faith I asked His forgiveness and trusted His mercy."

"God's mercy to me spreads to you. One special day after I had been king for many years, I decided I will do something good to honor the Lord. I had a nice fancy home, right for a king. But I felt funny going to worship the Lord in a tent. Our fathers used that tent to worship God as they escaped from Egypt. But now we lived in our home land, and God needed a good building, church, a temple. I told God, 'I will build a house for you.' God's answer surprised me. He said, 'No, I will build a house for you! I am satisfied with the tent. Anyway, I don't live in a house or building. But I will build a house for you... a house meaning a family tree... your sons, a future decendent will rule as King of my people forever.'

"God made that promise to me... for you. Because my future son, you soon celebrate his birth. My future son, became your King, and He reigns as your King still today."

II. God has chosen you ... why? - His mercy!

The name "DAVID" means, "One who receives much love" - God's Love. We all receive much love from God.

Maybe you sometimes wonder why God chose you to be His man or woman - you may feel not worthy. Indeed, none of us is worthy to be His people, His servants ... our daily sins of thought, word, and deed make us un-worthy! Then why did God choose us? - He shows mercy! Jesus brought God's mercy to a sinful, stubborn world, for people wanting forgiveness and new life ... He died - the perfect One in the place the sinful many! ... now in His love/mercy He gives that forgiveness and new life to us through faith.

So that makes us all equals ... none of us is better than another, none more deserving of God's blessing than another ...

all of us have equally received mercy by faith! So there is no place for our pride or for exalting ourselves you to a feast, don't choose the best seat in the house for yourself! - instead, show the humility that is right for a person whom God has chosen because of mercy. David didn't always remember that - neither do we! ... but again God's mercy remains for us, to forgive and cleanse us from all our pride and other sins.

CONCLUSION ... So we look back to all the HEROES OF FAITH, to see how they lived and died ... "and imitate (copy) their faith"! Why? - because they themselves were such good & fine people? ... no! - because they trusted God's mercy ... we see that mercy most clearly in Jesus Christ - He is the same yesterday, today, and forever ... He never stops showing mercy ... He never stops inviting us to trust His mercy ... in that mercy God chose us to be His people - to serve Him, to serve our neighbor.