

June 19, 2022

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Next month, God-willing, my family, the Raddatz family, will get together up north. We'll put the kayaks out in the water; we (but not me) will do some fishing; we'll go hunting, hunting for the best butcher shop with the best brats; and at the end of the day, we'll sit. Some of the young ones will sit in front of the TV like they've never seen a TV before. The rest of us will set ourselves around a table and play some cards. Not just any kind of cards, the best of cards - sheepshead, schafskopf, a game passed down from generation to generation. What's one of the first lessons, one of the most important lessons, in learning to play sheepshead? From early on, from ten, eleven months old, we're taught how to hold our cards. You don't hold your cards out here for everyone to see. ... You hold your cards in tight. You only show what you want to show when you want to show it.

God knows how to hold his cards in tight, doesn't he? We see it in our lesson. God is about to play the "new king" card; he directs Samuel to anoint David to be the next king of Israel. Samuel thinks it's too soon, too dangerous. God tells Samuel: "You don't need to show all your cards at once. You're a prophet; play a prophet card: "We're getting together for some God-time, a community meal with God." God knows how to hold his cards; he knows how to hold his cards in tight; he knows what cards he wants to show.

Not just in our lesson. Go back to the Garden of Eden. Satan played his cards, and Adam and Eve fell for his tricks and lies. God the Father had "the Jesus card" in his hand; he could have played it right then and there, sent Jesus right then and there, but it wasn't the right time. So God played a promise card - "I'm sending a Champion to crush the devil's head for you."

Then in Egypt, when God's people were being crushed by Pharaoh, God could have played his Jesus card then and there. But the time wasn't right. So God played a promise card with the Passover lamb and the Passover blood. Now we know: "We have a God who saves ... through the blood of the Lamb."

Now, this summer, we'll see how God holds and plays his cards in the life of David. Instead of playing the Jesus card and sending Jesus in the flesh, God showed through David how Jesus would step in to save his people. Through David, we see and hear Jesus on the cross "**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me.**" Through David, we hear Jesus' Easter confidence: "**I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**" Through David, we meet Jesus, his cross, his confidence. Through David, we see Jesus as Christ the King shepherding his people, ruling victorious for his people.

But not without suspense. God knows how to hold his cards in tight. A times it looks like David will never have his chance - David is on the run, hiding in caves, because King Saul wants him dead. Other times it looks like David will lose his chance - with Bathsheba, Uriah, Absalom. But when all seems lost, God plays the right card at the right time, wins another hand. Always. We see it again and again in the life of David; we get to see it again and again in our own lives - no matter how bad things look, God has the right card at the right time to win another hand.

Back to our lesson. God is holding his cards in tight. He sends his prophet Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint one of Jesse's sons to be the next king of Israel. Jesse's first, his oldest son, is brought to Samuel; he looks like what a king should look like. But God saw something more, or should I say: "God saw something less"? **"The LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."** Seven sons, seven times - "Not this one." But there was one more, the youngest, out in the fields tending the sheep. The LORD spoke: **"Rise and anoint him; he is the one."**

Why David? It wasn't just God being counter-cultural, picking the youngest instead of the oldest. And it wasn't David's good looks. God saw something more, something deeper in David's heart. God saw in David a heart in tune - not perfectly in tune, but wanting to be in tune - with God's heart. That almost sounds like what? Like ... God chose David because God saw how good David was.

But that's not the truth, or at least not the whole truth. The truth is that Samuel doesn't tell us why God chose David. Samuel tells us why God didn't chose David's older brothers, not really why God chose David. When God answers the question "why?" - why he has chosen you and me to be part of his family, why he chooses you and me to partner with him When God answers the question "why?" - the reason why isn't our goodness to him, the reason is his goodness to us.

I'm not saying that God didn't see goodness in David, or that God doesn't see goodness in you or me or anyone else. God did see goodness in David, and he does see goodness in you and even me.

Why? Not because David was naturally good; not because we are naturally good. You remember what David said: **“Surely I was sinful from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.”** David was born with a heart guilty before God, a heart at war against God. That wasn’t just true of David. We are all born into this world with hearts guilty before God, with hearts at war against God. **The natural mind is at war against God, it does not submit to God’s law nor can it do so.**

So how could God see good in David’s heart? Why does God see good in your heart and my heart? Because of addition and subtraction, subtraction and addition worked by God with Jesus. In Jesus, we have the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world - David’s sin, your sin, my sin, the sin of the world. In Jesus, our sin, our guilt before God, God’s anger and judgment are all taken away - God sees you as forgiven. That’s the subtraction. Here’s the addition: in your baptism, the right life of Jesus is given to you, added to you, so that God sees you as good and right. Good and right for life with God, good and right for life in heaven.

But that’s not all. God doesn’t just see us as good. He didn’t just see David as good. But God worked another kind of addition. By his Spirit, God worked his goodness in David, and by his Spirit, he is working his goodness in you. Over these next few weeks, we’ll see the Spirit work in David, and we’ll see how the Spirit can work in us. Why? Not only does God know how to hold his cards in tight; God also knows how to deal his cards for you. Amen.

June 18 & 19, 2022

THE SERVICE

IN OUR WORLD TODAY... we see a chaos and conflict around the question: "Who's the right choice? What makes someone qualified to be the right choice?" Sometimes the ways of the world insist on performance, blood-lines, connections Other times the ways of the world reject performance, blood-lines, connections

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we begin a series on God in the Life of David and get a glimpse into God's choosing.

OPENING HYMN

"Not unto Us"
Hymn 582

Not unto us, not unto us be glory, Lord;
not unto us but to your name be praise;
not unto us but to your name all honor be giv'n
for matchless mercy, forgiveness, and grace.

Amazing grace—that chose us ere the worlds were made;
amazing grace—that sent your Son to save;
amazing grace—that robed us in your righteousness
and taught our lips to sing glory and praise.

O faithful love—that shepherded through faithless years;
forgiving love—that led us to your truth;
unyielding love—that would not let us turn from you
but sent us forth to speak pardon and peace.

Not unto us but to your name be glory, Lord,
for grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.
Abide with us till trav'ling days are over and done,
and pilgrim feet lead us home, Lord, to you.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves
and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

CW 176

Refrain: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. *Refrain*

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift of grace that we come into your presence and offer true and faithful service. Grant that our worship on earth may always be pleasing to you, and in the life to come give us the fulfillment of what you have promised; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1–13

The 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.”

But Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.”

The LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.”

Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”

Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.”

But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.” Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the LORD chosen this one.” Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The LORD has not chosen these.” So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”

So 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 powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 8D

Refrain



I will praise your name for - ev - er, my King and my God.

Tone



LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in / all the earth!

You have set your glory in the / heavens.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your / fingers,

the moon and the stars, which you have / set in place,

what is a human being that you are mind- / ful of him,

a Son of Man that you / care for him? *Refrain*

You made him a little lower than the / angels

and crowned him with glory and / honor.

You made him ruler over the works / of your hands;

you put everything un- / der his feet.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

SECOND READING*1 Corinthians 1:26–31*

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*1 Peter 2:9*

Alleluia. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Alleluia.

GOSPEL*John 15:15–21; 16:33*

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lord, ‘Tis Not That I Did Choose You”

Hymn 581

Lord, 'tis not that I did choose you; that, I know, could never be,
for this heart would still refuse you had your grace not chosen me.
You removed the sin that stained me, cleansing me to be your own;
for this purpose you ordained me, that I live for you alone.

It was grace in Christ that called me, taught my darkened heart and mind;
else the world had yet enthralled me, to your heav'nly glories blind.
Now I worship none above you; for your grace alone I thirst,
knowing well that, if I love you, you, O Father, loved me first.

Praise the God of all creation, praise the Father's boundless love.
Praise the Lamb, our expiation, Priest and King enthroned above.
Praise the Spirit of salvation, him by whom our spirits live.
Undivided adoration to the great Jehovah give.

SERMON

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Heavenly Father, you call earthly fathers to a great responsibility. You direct them to instruct their children in your ways. Help them teach your words to their children. Encourage them to discuss your truth wherever they are.

Bless fathers as they seek to fulfill the calling you've entrusted to them.

When they sit at home with their children, fill their hearts and minds with the zeal and patience to lead devotions and discussions. When they grow weary or weak, remind them of the power and sufficiency of your grace. **Give them loving hearts and wise minds as they serve as Christian heads of their household. Help them as they bring up their children in the Lord.**

Embolden fathers to speak the truth of your Word unapologetically. Your Word is truth and life, light and salvation to all who believe.

Fashion Christian fathers to be a reflection of the perfect love of our heavenly Father. This is what all children need. This is what you desire.

Many fathers are burdened by guilt and stress. Release them from the guilt of their sins through your grace. Relieve them from the persistent stress of providing for the physical needs of their children by reminding them of the one thing needful. Sustain them as they instruct their children about sin and grace and your gift of Jesus who taught us to pray to you as our own Father:

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)

(Individually packaged wafers are gluten-free.)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my T body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my T blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

JESUS, LAMB OF GOD

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Father, God of Grace, You Knew Us"

Hymn 566

Father, God of grace, you knew us, chose us, named us as your own,
through eternal ages planning to redeem us in your Son.

Praise the Father, God who loved us ere creation was begun!

We, your creatures, sinned against you, and our guilt was crimson red.
Son of God, you came incarnate, crushed the crafty serpent's head,
died our death, now live triumphant: praise the firstborn from the dead!

Counselor, you bring as promised from the Father and the Son
righteousness fulfilled, accomplished, free forgiveness, heaven won.
Praise the Spirit! He assures us our salvation's work is done!

Lord, your changeless Word has fed us, spanning time, transcending space.
Water, bread, and wine sustained us when the darkness hid your face.
Keep us with you, faithful Shepherd, by your saving means of grace!

Forward lead us; Christ, we follow, drawn by Word and promise true:
"To all nations preach the gospel; I am evermore with you."
Keep us faithful! Then, Lord Jesus, quickly come; make all things new!

CLOSING PRAYER

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you
have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith,
nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to
live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your
guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Hymn 932

Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from his dwelling take leave. The supper is ended;
O be now extended the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us;
his love shall unite us to work for God’s kingdom and answer his call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev’ryday life we will face. Our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring, embracing his children of each tribe and race.
One bread that has fed us, one light that has led us
unite us as one in his life that we share. Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

OFFERING

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with your mobile device.*



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