

David Heard That Before

Welcome to Family Day at Carbondale. As a multi-generational church we try to do this several times a year, to have all ages together so children, youth and adults can join together to worship the Lord and also to enable families to partake of communion together.

Moms and Dads, if you are having communion with your children this morning, let me give a couple of words of instruction. First of all, if you are wondering if your child should receive communion, or wondering if they are old enough to receive communion, we leave that decision to you. Hopefully you've had a discussion with your child about Jesus and if they can tell you they love Jesus and they've accepted him into their heart, I think they understand enough to participate. This can perhaps open up an ongoing discussion between you and your child about their faith and what it means to be a follower of Christ. Don't worry that they don't fully understand all the significance of the communion experience. After fifty years, I'm still learning!

In a moment we will begin to sing and at any time during our worship you can feel free to come to the table to receive communion. You will have time so don't feel like you have to immediately get in line for communion. You may want to wait until the line thins out a bit. If your children are with you, you may want to help your child get the bread and the cup and then step away from the table and perhaps pray together and take the bread and the cup together as a family. We want this to be spiritually meaningful to your family. As usual, to make things a little easier we have stacked two cups, one on top of the other. The top cup has the juice in it, the bottom cup has the bread in it. Make sure you have both cups.

For our children, I know Pastor Brittany has talked to you about taking communion and we are glad you can be in here with us. The bible tells us before Jesus was arrested and crucified, Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples. During the meal he took bread, what they called matzoh and blessed it and broke it, then passed it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat. This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And then after supper he took the cup and blessed it as well and passed it to his disciples and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." The bible says whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death. What does that mean for us?

When we take communion - when we eat the bread and drink the cup of communion, we

talk about this as a time of remembering. On the front of the communion table it says **In remembrance of me** Jesus said “do this in remembrance of me.” What do we remember?

We remember who Jesus is. When we take the bread and the cup we remember that Jesus is God’s son and our Savior and Lord.

We remember who we are. We remember that we have sinned. We have done things that were wrong and we have disappointed God. Because of this we need His forgiveness. It’s good to take a moment to confess our sins and ask Jesus to forgive us.

We remember what Jesus did. Jesus loved us so much he died on the cross as a sacrifice for us - someone who took our place so our sin would no longer separate us from God. Communion reminds us that Jesus gave his body (represented by the bread) to be nailed to the cross and he bled on that cross (his blood is represented by the juice in the cup) so our sins could be forgiven and washed away.

We remember what Jesus does. If you have repented of your sins and asked Jesus to be your Savior and Lord, then he lives in your heart. Jesus is with you, to guide you and help you each and every day. Jesus is just as near and as real as the bread you touch with your hands and the cup you touch with your lips.

We remember that Jesus is coming again. The bible says we are to continue to take communion until he comes back again. Some day he will return, not as a baby like he did at Christmas, but as the one who rose from the dead at Easter. We look forward to that day.

So as we take communion this morning, let’s remember these things. Let’s pray and then we are going to sing and worship the Lord. As we do, we invite you to come forward to receive communion. If you need prayer, our pastors are here ready to pray with you as well. Let’s pray and then let’s worship together!

David Heard That Before

As I prayed about the service this morning, I felt drawn back to the story we talked about last Sunday, the story of King David taking the city of Jerusalem. Turn with me to **2 Samuel 5**. If you were here last Sunday, you recall David had been made king over all of Israel, uniting the kingdom and the tribes together. He decided the new united kingdom needed a new national capital and made the decision to take the city of Jebus, the city also known as Jerusalem. It was

the ideal place for a capital. It was a fortress in a perfect location. The problem was, it was such a good fortress that no one had been able to take the city. The Bible tells us in an earlier record, **“Judah could not dislodge the Jebusites who were living in Jerusalem; to this day the Jebusites live there with the people of Judah.” Joshua 15:63.** At the time David ascended to the throne, the Jebusites still occupied the city.

In spite of that, David decides that’s the place and marches his men to the city. The Jebusites inside yelled down to David from their ten foot thick walls, **“You will not get in here; even the blind and the lame can ward you off.’ They thought, ‘David cannot get in here.’” 2 Samuel 5:6.**

History suggested they were right. David couldn’t get in there. No one had gotten in. Yet, we know what happened. The very next verse tells us, **“Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion, the City of David.”** My question is, “Why did David go ahead and attempt to capture the city when everything suggested it was a waste of time, a futile and perhaps costly attempt? How did David come to have the faith to believe he could do what no one else had been able to do, to conquer the Jebusites inside the walls of Jerusalem? What did David know that caused him to move ahead in faith when the Jebusites said, “David cannot get in here.” The truth is **David had been here before!** I don’t mean he had been at this site trying to capture Jerusalem. I mean he had been in this set of impossible, unlikely circumstances before. David had heard all this before. He had heard people tell him, “You can’t get in here” before. People had underestimated David before. He had heard people say “you don’t belong here” before and I think saying that to David was like saying “sic em” to a dog.

Let me show you what I’m talking about. Look back with me to **1 Samuel 16** where David is secretly anointed to be king by the prophet Samuel. Saul was the king at that time but the prophet Samuel told Saul the kingdom was going to be taken from him and given to another, although it would not happen for some time. Samuel told Saul, **“...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.” 1 Samuel 13:14**

It broke Samuel’s heart, but the Lord told Samuel to stop grieving over Saul and to go to Bethlehem because he had chosen one of Jesse’s sons to be king. (1 Samuel 16:2-10).

Samuel goes to Bethlehem and tells them he is going to sacrifice to the Lord and he tells

Jesse to bring his sons to the sacrifice. One by one Jesse's seven sons pass in front of Samuel but God told Samuel he had not chosen any one of them. Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have? Aren't there anymore?" Jesse answered, "There is still the youngest, but he is tending the sheep." Jesse hadn't even bothered to call David! Not even brought to the sacrifice for consideration, for blessing by the prophet. David was overlooked by his father. Under-estimated, under-valued. He didn't even think enough of him to call him up from the fields. "He is too young. He probably isn't leadership material. Eliab is tall and strong, you could certainly use him. Abinadab is smart and cunning, but David...he's just a boy. Kind of a dreamer sometimes, playing the harp and writing songs. He couldn't be the one you are looking for."

Like the Jebusites that said, "David can't get in here", David's dad seemed to be saying, **You cannot get in here.** David didn't qualify by some standards. But aren't you glad God delights in choosing the unlikely folks? Remember what the Bible says? Paul wrote, "**Brothers, 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. He 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.**" 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

David had been here before. Rejected and overlooked by others. "You can't get in here."
David had heard that before.

Look at 1 Samuel 17. It is the story of David and Goliath. King Saul and the Israelites are camped in the valley of Elah and are facing the Philistines, being challenged everyday by a nine foot tall giant named Goliath.

David's three oldest brothers were with Saul and the army facing Goliath. David is sent by his father Jesse to see if his brothers were all right and take them some supplies. While he was there Goliath came out and roared his challenge to the army of Israel. When David heard Goliath's challenge, his righteous indignation was stirred up and he called Goliath a disgrace, an unholy Philistine that defied the armies of the living God. When David's oldest brother Eliab heard what David said, the Bible says he burned with anger at him, in other words he lit into him as we say in Oklahoma. "**Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave**

those few sheep in the desert? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle.” 1 Samuel 17:28

Eliab questions David’s motives, insults his character, humiliates him in front of the other soldiers. Essentially, Eliab was saying, “You don’t belong here squirt. You’re out of your league. You need to go back home to the sheep and leave the giants and the military stuff to real men like us. You don’t belong.” Once again it was as if someone was saying to David, **“You cannot get in here.”** Yep, **David had heard that before.**

David walks away from his brother Eliab and the humiliation he has just experienced and finds himself in the presence of the king. David tells king Saul, “I will go and fight Goliath.” And what does Saul say to David? **“You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy and he has been a fighting man from his youth.” 1 Samuel 17:33**

Once again, David hears it. “You’re too young, too inexperienced, too small. You’re not the one. You just aren’t enough of what we need to get the job done.” Rejection is painful and David knows it. “You aren’t qualified. You aren’t trained enough in warfare.” Saul says the same kind of thing the Jebusites told him. **You cannot get in here.**

David tells Saul he has been in these situations before. He has heard that before, but God has helped him and God will help him again. **Saul tries to help David by putting him in his own armour, but this wasn’t about equipment, it was about anointing. It wasn’t about age or experience, it was about obedience.**

David had been here before, facing impossible odds, being told he was too young, being rejected, overlooked. **David had heard this before,** but he walks out with his sling shot and five small stones to face Goliath. And what does Goliath do? Goliath rejects David as well. **“Am I a dog that you come at me with sticks? Come here and I’ll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!”** Goliath is thinking, “Everyday I challenge the Israelites to send a champion out here to fight me, and everyday they ignore my challenge until today, and then they send me a child, a shepherd boy. You can’t fight me. You bring nothing to challenge me, like throwing little twigs at a big dog. I could shut my eyes, tie one hand behind my back and still crush you.”

When the Jebusites shouted to David, “What are you doing coming against us? We could

put the blind and lame on the walls and defend the city. **“You can’t get in here!”** David must have thought, **“I’ve heard this before!”**

David had been underestimated before. David had been rejected before. David had been overlooked before. “You can’t get in here.” David had heard that before. “It can’t be done.” David had heard that before. But it never stopped him. If anything it fueled the fire in David to conquer and do exactly what everyone said could not be done. How? How could he refuse to be limited by the opinions of others? How could he overcome impossible odds?

And more importantly today, what about us? Most of us have heard this before in our lives. We’ve had people tell us “You can’t get in here. It can’t be done. You’re not cut out for this. You’re too young, inexperienced, the walls are too high, the giant is too big. You just need to go home and give this up.” We’ve heard this before. We’ve been there before. Like David, we’ve faced the negative remarks and the impossible circumstances. So what did he do? What can we do? Let me quickly point out two things David knew that enabled him to overcome the obstacles before him.

David faced every circumstance knowing there was more to it than outward appearance. David learned this the same time Samuel did when he anointed David to be king. Samuel looked at Eliab and thought “surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord.” But God told 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.” 1 Samuel 16:7**

David learned there was more to it than what’s on the outside. “I’m not as tall as Eliab, not as strong, not as talented perhaps, but God doesn’t look at outward appearance but at the heart.” David’s heart was set upon the Lord.

I believe David took this lesson and applied it for a lifetime. It’s not all about outward appearance. And not just with regards to people, but it applies to circumstances as well. You see, David looked at Goliath and saw something different than everyone else. Others saw a nine foot tall giant, David saw an enemy of God that had to be defeated. Others saw Goliath in a 125 lb. suit of armor that could not be penetrated. David saw an opening in the helmet where a small stone could strike and take out a giant. David saw the vulnerable spot on a giant. And years later he would see the vulnerable spot in the defenses of the city of Jerusalem that would allow a man

to get inside that impenetrable fortress. **David knew there was more to every circumstance than what you could see with eyes of flesh. David saw with eyes of faith.**

2. David faced every circumstance knowing God had a purpose for his life. David faced everything in his life with the confident knowledge of a divine purpose and destiny. Certainly it helped that the prophet of God had shown up at his house and poured oil on his head and told him he would someday be king. But keep in mind, he was just a boy and it seemed as impossible and as unlikely as if I told you you would be president of the USA someday.

David knew there was a purpose for his life. In the face of every impossible circumstance, in the back of his mind David was able to say, “God has called me, he has brought me to this place for such a time as this. He has chosen me and he is directing my steps. I won’t give up or give in because God’s purpose and plan is somehow being worked out through my life and in these circumstances. God will see me through!”

David wrote in the Psalms, **“You have laid your hand upon me.” Psalm 139:5.** David knew God had a purpose for his life. The hand of God was upon him. And listen to me: the things you are facing right now – know this – God has a divine purpose for you as well, just as he had for David. Know it! He has called you. He has chosen you. God has laid his hand upon you as well. He is directing your steps just as he directed David’s steps. The steps of the righteous are directed, ordered, ordained of the Lord.

It doesn’t matter how young or old. It doesn’t matter how handsome or pretty. It isn’t about what’s on the outside, it’s about what’s on the inside that matters. That’s what’s important. You need to hear it today. God has a plan for you. He has laid his hand on you. He wants to do something strategic with your life, with your talent, your ability.

I want every person to hear this. I want every child and teenager to hear it and believe it. I want every single person, every married person, every couple every family to hear it. God looks at you and sees his child – a child with value, with possibility, with purpose. God has a plan for you. You may have been told you aren’t good enough. You may have been told like David, “You can’t get in here. You don’t measure up. You aren’t pretty enough, smart enough.” But God has a plan. God has his hand upon you. Look with eyes of faith. Trust God. Listen to his word and trust Him. Obey Him. Follow him and he will direct your life.

Think you are too young? You know how old I was when I preached my first sermon?

Not yet 11. I was ten years old. How many ten year olds are in here? Don't let anyone tell you that you are too young to tell someone about Jesus. Don't let anyone tell you you aren't old enough to live for Jesus or to do things for the Lord.

We have any teenagers that are 17? August 2, 1972, I was 17 years old, about 3:00 in the morning I heard the voice of God speak to me, that he was going to bless me and use me. An anointing to preach came upon my life at that time, that's the only way I know to explain it. I had been preaching and singing for a few years but something changed that night.

My point is, don't let anyone tell you that you are too young at 17 to preach, or to work for God. Don't let the Jebusites in your life tell you you don't belong. God has his hand upon you. God has a plan and a purpose for your life. Obey him. Trust him. Listen to him. Follow the Lord. Guard your heart. Serve God and not yourself and see what the Lord will do. Nevertheless, in spite of age, young or old, in spite of obstacles, great or small, God will show you the way to victory!