

"CLOSE BUT NO PROMOTION"

1 Sam 17:28-29

Our story: Eliab is close to the action – but is never chosen. We need to see why – so we can avoid.

I. WRONG EXPECTATIONS

A. 1st see Eliab in story of choosing a new King Samuel was impressed with him:

1. *1 Samuel 16:6 So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD'S anointed is before Him."*

2. We can view ourselves incorrectly

a. **We assume that we are better than we actually are**

1. *I'm doing great/I am so special/I'm so talented/I know so much – about how the church/Fellowship should run*

b. **We can have an entitlement mentality: The feeling or belief that you deserve to be given something.**

1. *I'm oldest/I have seniority - I'm impressive – I have talents*

a. *Man introduced himself with the statement: "I'm the #2 disciple"*

2. We have a ladder mentality: We think we know which rung we're on

a. *We feel that we're owed: I deserve promotion/position; Time/giving/sacrifice*

b. *We feel that we can be given promotion/position*

B. What we see and what God sees can be very different

1. *1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."*

II. MISSING THE POINT

A. Eliab and the army were doing army things:

1. *1 Samuel 17:2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and they encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array against the Philistines.*

a. **Going through the motions**

2. We can do things that are helpful – that look like we're doing what needs to be done

a. *Dressing like a disciple* b. *Attending* c. *Saying right things/asking right questions*

B. And yet we can be failing to do what needs to be done

1. *1 Samuel 17:11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.*

2. The point of a soldier is to fight the enemy

a. *The enemy is right there – Goliath comes out every day for 40 days; But no one fought him!*

C. The point of being a disciple is to bear fruit

1. *John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.*

a. **That is the skill that will prepare us for the future**

1. *Pioneering – no one is there: Your skills do no good in an empty building*

2. *Taking a church: Almost always small – and some of those lack revelation (they do you no good)*

2. The **indispensable factor of ministry: The ability to bear fruit**

a. *Numbers 17:5 the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom:*

III. RESULTING CONFLICT

A. When we have wrong expectations and miss the point – we view people incorrectly

1. *1 Samuel 17:28 Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."*

2. **We despise other disciples – b/c we assume we're better than they are**

a. *2 Corinthians 10:12 ... but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.*

1. *That guy's a jerk! He has marriage problems! He can't speak as well as me!*

3. **We resent other people we view as competitors**

a. *Eliab was outraged that David should want to do right: He'll get attention – can't have that!*

1. *Envy: Pain at others blessings or advancement*

b. *The mistake is thinking someone else being used will limit or block our chances to be used*

4. We wind up speaking against others: **V28** and he said...

B. The issue is that we can be passed by

1. *Eliab was never heard from again: Never found a place of usefulness*

a. *Matthew 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen*

2. Stories like this are written so we examine our own hearts – don't wind up like him!