

## Jesus: For Those Who Feel Left Out

The Bible is full of stories about people who thought they had been passed over. There is a story of a young man named David. He was about 16 at the time and he worked as a shepherd. No one had a clue that he was destined for greatness. So a very important man came to his family's home. The man's name was Samuel and he was looking for the next king of Israel. God told him that he would find the king among the people in which David lived. So David's father brought all of his sons to Samuel – all of them but David. Long story short, Samuel 'interviewed' all of the sons and wanted to see the one that was missing. David, the one who was not even invited to the meeting, was the one God had chosen to be the next king.

David was unaware of the fact that a very significant decision was being made in his own house. The coolest thing is that God knows about David. God knows all about the kind of person that David is and what he is capable of doing. So even though he was not invited, God still knew exactly where he was. Check out this verse:

**"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 NIV**

The standards of the world are hard to come around sometimes. You often can never do enough, say enough or look good enough. But the plan of God includes all of those who feel left out of the crowd. We are told that the eyes of God search the whole earth for one man or woman that He could use.

Another story about this is actually a story within a story. Here's the context below:

**'One day as Jesus was walking along the shores of the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother, Andrew, fishing with a net, for they were commercial fishermen. Jesus called out to them, "Come, be my disciples, and I will show you how to fish for people!" And they left their nets at once and went with him. A little farther up the shore Jesus saw Zebedee's sons, James and John, in a boat mending their nets. He called them, too, and immediately they left their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired men and went with him.' Mark 1:16-20 NLT**

Now what you probably didn't realize was that Simon, Andrew, James and John were like all young Jewish boys who studied to become a rabbi one day. Sometime in their adolescence, they were told that they basically did not have what it takes to be a rabbi and they should go back to the family business. So when Jesus (who is a rabbi) comes up to them and offers them an opportunity like this, it makes sense why they so eagerly dropped everything to go. They were just like us – they lived in the reality that they were not good enough. And Jesus comes to them and invites them on the greatest mission of hope to the world ever.

It has been said so many times before – that same invitation exists today for each one of us. If you are ready to be in on the greatest thing ever, just except Jesus' invitation. Check out this last verse:

**'That's plain enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all--irrespective of how we got here--in what he is building.' Ephesians 2:19 The Message**

PRAYER: Jesus, I realize that you are offering me a life that is better than I could ever imagine. Even when the world rejects me, I know that You are waiting for me with open arms. I thank you for loving me, help me to turn to You and love You. Amen.