

1 Samuel 22:1-2  
The Misfits Gather / My Life Sermon  
October 9, 2016

**Main Point:** This passage teaches us a lot about God's Kingdom and how it advances. With whom does God dwell? Who does God use to advance His kingdom? Isaiah 57:15 says, "For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.'"

God builds His kingdom with the most unlikely of people.

SI: Only two verses. The heart of the Bible.

Who does God use? With whom does He dwell? What kind of kingdom is He building?

Intro: This message is for those who have ever felt down, who have ever been distressed, who have ever been overwhelmed by debt, who have had thoughts like: I can't get it right. I'm not worthy. I will never amount to anything.

### 1. **God's Recipe for Building His Kingdom: Start with the Misfits.**

Don't we pray His Word? - Your kingdom come. His rule, His reign, His power on display, His conquering work in His world.

How does He do it? We're looking at David... Remember David himself was the least likely to become king, youngest and smallest.

Now we know, from the beginning of the story, that because of Saul's sin and refusal to repent, God has rejected Saul and chosen David.

And the tension is thick. Who is David at this point in the account?

David with faithful trust in God's power to defeat his enemies, represented God's people and courageously fought Goliath and killed him with a stone from a sling and then chopped off his head with Goliath's own sword.

He serves Saul from within the king's household, married to his daughter, best friends with his son, now a fugitive on the run from King Saul who wants to kill him.

He has to leave his home, leave his wife, leave his best friend. David is stripped down to nothing. David is learning dependence upon God like he never knew before.

But God is building a king for a kingdom. And a king needs subjects. And these people, these misfits, these know something that we often forget: "We are not primarily called to do something or go somewhere. We are called to Someone." — Os Guinness. And that Someone is a King. the King of Kings.

And so look who God brings to David. Who does God use?  
God builds His kingdom through the most unlikely of people. This is the HEART of the Bible.

David in distress, but David is the king in waiting.  
David in distress, but he has the sword that killed the giant.  
David in distress, but he has friends. Now are they Navy SEALS? Green Berets? No. They are the distressed, too. B/c God uses the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

God starts with the misfits. The down and out. The outcasts. The undesirables.  
Brokenness is what qualifies you for the Kingdom.

Who will risk it and go to the King for help?  
Those in distress: “oppressed”  
Those in debt  
Those bitter in soul, discontented: “embittered”

David’s family went to him > they were marked men and women, under the curse of Saul now. They were hunted people.

If you are distressed or if you have been, you welcome these passages. **B/c then you know that this is not abnormal!** This is the normal way God works! God works through the pain of our sin and the distress in the world to show us our need for Him so that we will go to Him.

For many of us, this is hard to hear. It is hard for me to hear, and I’m preaching it. We like to be strong, capable, accomplished. We have worked hard to get to where we are and to acquire what we have.

But this is one of the reasons why the Bible is so clearly God’s Word > no human would design this, we are far too drunk with our own pride. And every other religion and self-help system is just that: self-help. Within you, you have the ability to make yourself better. God will not have it. We must acknowledge our brokenness. Trans to **2**.

### 1. **God’s Recipe for Building Warriors: The Broken Become the Mighty**

But see what happens to the broken? We don’t see it in these two verses, but these 400 become the Navy SEALS, the Green Berets of David’s kingdom. They fight off injustice and rescue people from oppression.

ch 23 > David and his men save the city of Keilah from the Philistines.

How does this happen? B/c David gives them strength. David trains them. David is the king in waiting and he gives them what has been given to him to give. Do you know what you have been given in Christ Jesus? The King?

Most Christians understand what it means to be **forgiven**. But to be **given** is something we struggle with. From Ray Cortese: Let's say you come in to the bank and meet with the debt counselor b/c your debts are overwhelming you and you need help. And they say, listen, we have this program and you qualify. All of your debts are paid off. Wow. Great, that is grace. My debts are paid for. But you still walk out of the bank with \$0.00 in your account.

But what if the President of the bank calls you over and says, you know what, your name is on my account. What's mine is yours. Most people don't understand this part of the Gospel. He is an equipping, empowering, giving God who delights in giving good gifts to His children. He gives you Himself, His power, His Spirit lives in you and supernaturally works to empower you to be His people holding out to the world, putting yourselves on display, of what the God of love can do.

But if you come to Him in your own strength, offering up your own deeds, He says, no, that is the ticket to hell b/c hell is where the self-righteous—those depending on themselves and their own goodness and lack of badness—go. That's why Hell is filled with weeping and gnashing of teeth. Absolute despair and miserable anger. I did it my way and this is where I ended up.

But as the broken go to the King, they become the mighty.

One reason I chose this passage is b/c I have seen again and again validation of it. Through negative and positive examples. I've seen strong-men pastors who damage people, hurt the cause of Christ, and destroy their own ministries through avoidance of their brokenness.

And I've seen poor-in-spirit pastors who go to the King and He advances His kingdom through them, because of them, never in spite of them.

And, this is part of my story. Of how God brought me out of misery so I could see what the God of love could do and in no way be able to ever take any credit for it myself.

And the awe and wonder of my life and this calling which will take all eternity for me to process: Some of you are an indispensable and undeniable part of this team of people that God has worked in and through to get me and my family here today.

### **1. God's Recipe for Building His Church: Jesus Welcomes Sinners (And Makes Us New)**

Why this passage is at the heart of the message of the Bible. God's heart is for the broken. And there are no unbroken people.

Makes evangelism less scary. Just get them to the King. Makes discipleship less complicated. Just get them to the King. Teach them about the King, His character, His ways. Allow the HS to work to soften hardened hearts.

After all, who were Jesus' mighty men? The disciples. And what were they like? Thomas the doubter, Peter the rash ADD extrovert, James and John, a set of zealots who wanted to call down fire on everybody. A despised tax collector and a bunch of unlearned fishermen.

And Paul > an intellectual powerhouse strongman who was blinded before his conversion and kept humble through a thorn in his flesh.

And Jesus changed them all. And He has and is changing you. B/c He's The King.

Ellis Potter > Humpty Dumpty ILLUS > "... but the king could."

Don't you see? God is building an upside down kingdom. His kingdom is filled with misfits from the world's perspective. We are foolish in their eyes. But Jesus says we are a kingdom.

Jesus says blessed are the poor, blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, blessed are the the weary as long as they go to Him. We are the blessed ones. We are guests at His Table, His banqueting Table.

\*And if we are, then we will be welcomers of others like us. We will be friends of sinners like us. And we will stop gossiping about people different from us. We will stop being racists. We will stop calling people undesirables. We will be true Christ-followers who love the least, the lost, and yes, especially our enemies. We will be this, or we are not Christians.

Evangelism will not be so scary. It will be an outflow of love. We will repent of our self-protectiveness and run to Jesus for help in loving our neighbors.

How can we do this?

By remembering that we ourselves are misfits. And misfits are the only people Jesus welcomes, because misfits are the only people there are.