

Here I Am

God's Sovereignty and My Flaws
Pastor Craig Sweeney | June 8, 2025

Thread: God's sovereign equation takes our flaws into consideration.

Text: I Samuel 16:1 – 13 NLT

"Now the Lord said to Samuel, 'You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king.'" **I Samuel 16:1 NLT**

It's difficult to embrace new things while mourning over past things.

- "Mourned long enough"
 - *"A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance."* **Ecclesiastes 3:4 NLT**
- What is Samuel grieving?
- Mourning, grief
 - Stages of grief
- Notice what Samuel wasn't doing.
- What potential in your life or someone else's life are you grieving over? Important to identify it because:

"But Samuel asked, 'How can I do that? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.' 'Take a heifer with you,' the Lord replied, 'and say that you have come to make a sacrifice to the Lord. Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you which of his sons to anoint for me.'"

I Samuel 16:2 – 3 NLT

Ask for God for clarity, and He will show you.

- **James 1:5 – 12 NLT**
Some of us are in vulnerable states of grieving over losses and are diminished.

God is excited to give you the way forward.

- **Colossians 1:9 – 11 NLT**

"So Samuel did as the Lord instructed. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town came trembling to meet him. 'What's wrong?' they asked. 'Do you come in peace?' 'Yes,' Samuel replied."

I Samuel 16:4 – 5a NLT

Challenge:

- Are you grieving? What clarity has God brought to you?
- Is there something you need to start doing again?
- God's wisdom given to you is no small thing; what wisdom do you need to ask for?

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