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Little Ol' Me | Hebrews 11:32

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SPEAKERS

Rev. Sophia A. Foutres

How are you guys doing today? Good, you? It's, it feels good—energy in here today. I'm, I'm really trying not to have a panic attack today. I had one the last time I preached. I know, I know. It was great. It wasn't great actually for me, but I'm so happy to be here with you today. And there are so many beautiful new faces, some old faces, not old like elderly, but I mean familiar. Thank you for always helping me out, man, always helping me out.

So, this morning, I am going to be talking about David. King David, from the Old Testament, First Testament. And you know what's cool? Hey, guys, good to see you. It's great. I can't wait to marry you. Not married, not me. I'm not gonna marry you. I'm gonna officiate your wedding. Oh, geez. Are you guys okay? Anyway, I have a song to cue in case it goes downhill. And I'm just gonna start dancing like David did.

And so anyway, today has been so beautiful already. Because I love when, I love when, I love when everything starts to weave together. So, this morning, Pastor Tracy shared about Psalm 22. And Jesus crying out and starting to pray that prayer, oh, my God, my God, why have you forsaken me? And how many times have you been in a spiritual setting where you've said, The Lord is my shepherd? I shall not want, right? And what does that bring up in you when you hear that kind of like a familiar, comforting little nugget, right?

And Jesus, when he's on the cross, and one of the most crucial moments of his life. He's not just having a freakout moment saying, My God, My God, why did you forsake me? He's quoting a Psalm of David, that David King David wrote years before. And he's using the very Psalm that David wrote to help him through a difficult time. And he starts to quote it and he remembers, I think that's a beautiful little, well, we'll see what happens with David's life. That's why. But that just shows you the power of David's life that years ago, we get a glimpse of his journal through the Psalms.

And today, those words are still comforting us, bringing us even this song like I felt like it was David's song, the last song you just played. It was these words of comfort, this love of comfort that we've received from somebody else's journey. So today, our text, we're still going through Hebrews 11, the Hall of Faith. We're digging into all these people who were, quite frankly, totally, The Motley Crew messed up people doing all kinds of wild and crazy stuff. They're like us, right? We do wild and crazy stuff all the time in our lives, some of us wilder than others.

And God says, I want you. God says, I'm going to use your life. I'm going to bring love and light through your cracks. So today we're looking at another cracked Hall of Famer in the hall of faith, David. So, Hebrews 11:32 says, And what more this is the writer talking about all the hall of faith and all the people who had great faith. He says, what more shall I say, I do not have the time even to tell you about Gideon Barak, Samson Jephthah about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through their face, conquered kingdoms administer justice, and gained what was promised, who shut the mouths of lions quench the fury of flames, and escaped the edge of the sword whose weakness was turned to strength and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.

So today in David's story, we get a glimpse into his calling. I'm not going to tell you the whole thing, but I'm gonna give you a little, little snippet. So, the text from today that we're talking about with David is First Samuel 16. And it's when David was anointed king. Again, I'm not going to read you the whole thing if you want to tonight over dinner, you can read it. But I will read you just kind of a glimpse of it. The Lord said to Samuel and Samuel was a prophet of that day the current King was King Saul. And he was not doing a great job. God wasn't pleased with him. He wasn't listening. He wasn't following the commands that God was giving to him.

And so, God wanted to replace King Saul. So, he sent Samuel, a prophet, a guy who basically tells people what's going to happen next, and prepares the way. And he says to the Lord says to Samuel, how long will you grieve over Saul, I have rejected him from being the king of Israel, fill your horn with oil and set out, and I will send you to Jesse, the best one might, for I have provided myself a king among his sons. Samuel said, How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me. And the Lord said, Take a heifer with you and you and say, I have come to sacrifice to the Lord, invite Jesse to the sacrifice and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me, the one whom I named for you. Samuel did with the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, saying, do you come peaceably, said peaceably, I have come to sacrifice to the Lord, sacrifice, sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When he when they came, he looked on Elliott and thought, surely this is the Anointed now before the Lord. He was one of he was going to go through all of his sons. And the Lord said, what the Lord said to Samuel, do not look on his appearance, nor on his height or his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord does not see as humans see, they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart. So, after this, what happens is, Samuel says, Let me see all your sons. And Jesse has eight sons. And he goes through all of them, he gets finally to the seven. He's like, No, this still, isn't it? And he says to Jesse says, Do you have anybody else? And he's like, Yeah, I got the little one out in the field with the sheet. And he says, Bring them to me. And, and Samuel has got this in the back of his mind, and it's not going to be by appearance, or by great might or strength. And then the text says, He brings out David, who's little, but he's ready. And he's handsome. I'm like, what? So, he's not going to be by appearance, but he comments that he's ready. And he's handsome. I'm like, Okay, interesting fact here from the writers who knows why. And he has beautiful eyes, right? So, what I'm thinking is, is that, like, I'm thinking of that guy, Jason Momoa. Right.

That's kind of what I imagined when I see David. Yes, he has piercing blue eyes. He's going to play Moana; he's going to, you know, whatever. Anyway, but instead, I'm imagining all of those features, but he's like, scrawny, four foot, and 98 pounds, but he's got piercing blue eyes. He's like, "Oh, he's going to take on the next armies of everything." But at least he's cute, right? He's got piercing blue eyes. And like, that would do it for me.

So, that's why he says this: "I'm not going to send you a giant; I'm going to send you somebody who's got something of the heart, that is going to be pliable for me to call to this great mission that I have for them." And then, David, essentially, you would think, "Okay, he's going to be the next king." But he's only like 14 or 15-16 years old. This was just the beginning of his journey. So, he gets this calling. Samuel knows that this is going to be the anointed one.

But what he does next is, he happens to be able to play the lyre, which is like a harp but a little baby harp. It's not fun on it; you guys know the difference, some of you. Instead of becoming king right away, he's sent to King Saul to serve him first. His mission is because King Saul basically loses his anointing or his special power because God says, like, "You're done being king; I'm going to raise somebody else up." He starts to get tormented by demons.

So, David's main mission then is to play the lyre for him. And every time he plays the lyre for him, he has peace, and he calms down. So, like, that's what he's called to do right now. And he starts this at 14 or 15 years old and gets into the king's service. The king has no clue that David is being raised up to take over for him.

Eventually, what happens is David has to go through all of these trials and tribulations. So, he's called, and there's a mark on his life where God says, "I'm choosing you." And then, basically,

he becomes somebody's comforter. And then there are all kinds of trials. He gets almost killed. He gets backstabbed. There are all kinds of things that happen in his journey. But he remains. He doesn't give up.

David was loved by God, just a shepherd boy who, against all odds, ended up killing the giant Goliath. This is all before he was the king with a single little slingshot. He then grew up, united Israel, made Jerusalem the capital, and endeavored to point Israel toward the people toward God. Under his leadership, the kingdom had never been stronger.

But it didn't start off that way for him. We remember David as this great hero, as the guy who wrote the psalms that make us feel better, as the guy who killed Goliath. But we so often miss his humaneness in the middle of it. We often miss that he was called, but then he had to wait 15 some years before his actual calling took place, and then he went through all kinds of crap.

Have you guys ever been in a place where you felt like God promised you something? And you were sure that that was gonna happen? Right? And then like, you were like, "Oh, it's gonna happen like tomorrow?" How many of you guys are still waiting? Right? Okay. So, David in his waiting had this incredible connection to God. And ultimately, he was known as a guy, as a guy after God's own heart.

God saw him and chose him, knowing he was just a human, a person who wouldn't be perfect in his calling, a person who would make a lot of mistakes and blatant wrongdoings. And basically, that's what happened. King David, once he became king, he ended up having an affair. And then killing off the lady, the mistress, that he had an affair with her husband. He sent him to the front of the line in the battle and had him killed.

What's different about David is that he, in all the different things that he went through. We're not glorifying the fact that he was human. And he made mistakes, right? We all do that. What we glorify is, he's human, he made mistakes. He endured a lot. But he continued to find a way to turn towards God no matter what. So, like, he messed it up. He killed some people. He cheated, like he did some seed did some wild things.

But in the middle of it all, every chance he got, he found a way to turn back to God. And I can only imagine if right away when he was called to be king, and he got anointed, and all this stuff was happening. He was like, "Oh, it didn't happen. After a year. He was like, peace out, I'm done." But he kept going. He kept believing, he kept doing the work of a servant. He kept playing that lyre. He kept showing up in integrity and honesty as much as he could.

When he messed up. He turned around, and he went, "Oh, my God, my God, help me." When I was caught in my own sin, you had mercy on me. It's not sacrifices that you want, but it's an

open heart that you want. And he went back to the drawing board, he went back to his journal and he said, "God, I can't do this. I need you." And he was quick to turn around.

So, I think what happens in our lives is that when we make a mistake, or when we think God said something, and then didn't do it, what we do is we get stuck in it. And we just mull in it, and we mull on it, and we mull on it. And we don't turn around because we think number one, maybe that God just wants us to stay stuck in it that we should pay some sort of penance that we should just grovel a little bit to make sure God knows we're really sorry. Or to make sure that we know that we really messed up. So, we like oh, you know, I'm going to stay in this kind of self I'm like, what's it called? Self-Sabotage, sabotage. Thank you is self-sabotage. And I'm not going to turn around right away. I'm going to just keep running.

But I wonder if right now what would happen if we stopped running? Whatever, wherever we're running. And we just turned around, we looked at God said, "Here I am God. Let's get back on track. I want to fulfill the calling you have on my life. I don't want to get caught up in oh my gosh, I'm so terrible. Oh my gosh, I did this thing wrong. Oh, my gosh, I missed it. Oh, my gosh, it's taking so long. Instead, I'm gonna be like, Okay, what are you saying, right? Now? Let's do it.

Because it's the meaning that we place on what happens, that affects us not even what happens. So, David could have said, I cheated, I killed I am the scum of the earth. And I deserve to die. And I shouldn't carry out my calling or my purpose. I'm going to stop writing. I'm going to burn my journals. And I'm gonna burn the liar. And that's it.

Have you ever been to that place where you're just like, I'm just too far gone? Or this world is too far gone? Or, you know, politics are too far gone. So, I'm not going to vote. Can you imagine? It's my blog. What would happen if we just stopped in motion when everything kind of wasn't what we thought it was going to be?

But what if instead, we say, I'm going to keep going. I'm gonna find God in this. I'm going to make a prayer out of this. I'm going to press forward out of this. So maybe in your life, you've been like, David. Maybe you're hiding out in your job? Maybe you feel like you're the small one. Maybe you feel like you're just the little one who's overlooked? Who's never picked who's never been chosen? who's never been that IT person.

Maybe you just minding your own business thinking that God would rather use someone bigger, better or older. But instead, you hear the whisper of God. And that whisper says, No, it's you. No matter what your story, no matter what your history, no matter what your future, no matter what your cracks are, it's you. It's me.

I believe that every single one of us is called to a specific corner of the world. Whenever I think about the problems of today, whenever I turn on the news, or tick tock, which is my trustworthy news source. The deep fakes right now are so good. But seriously, whenever I watch the news, or it can be so overwhelming to think, how am I ever going to do this?

And I imagined David thought that too. How am I ever going to unite the kingdoms for Israel? Oh my god. I was literally ready to like, Stop, drop and roll. Like, I usually carry my nail clippers in case there's like an emergency to like, you know, to like, defend myself. Like I thought it was a villain. Because that wouldn't help at all. I know. Just stay with me, guys.

Despite these interruptions, it's helping to dysregulate my nervous system even more.

That's hilarious, right? You're watching so hard. It's not funny. Sad. Okay, my partner is a therapist. So, she will help me later.

But I think the point is right. There is every single one of us is called for something. And even if you felt like you got that call years ago, or maybe you felt like you just got that call yesterday. Or maybe you feel like you've never got that call. Jesus, I believe gives us all the same call. He summarizes it. In one simple statement says, Here's a new command I give to you, that you might love one another. Love God love others as you love yourself.

Every single one of you in here, I'm looking at all your little faces. You have a calling, as mighty as David. You are your own David to your own corner. And here are some things that you might be right in your corner of the world. You might never have a kingdom, right? But you might have a liar, or a song, or a smile that you play to the people in your corner of the world who are tormented. and people, that's enough.

If we would just do that over and over again consistently, it would relieve so much in just your little corner. And everybody's got a corner, David has set a corner, he did it. So, I created a little list with the help of Google, of some nuggets from the nest. And I just created that title. It doesn't even fit really with like the sermon, but I thought it was cute. So like nuggets from the nest of David's life.

And if you want to take notes, great, if not just listen, you can play it back. So, David's story teaches us so much. And a lot of times what we say is, David is a man after God's own heart. But like, I'm like, What does that even mean? Sometimes when we say we say these religious statements that are like, great, but what does that look like in real life? Right? How do we do that?

So, here's some nuggets that I discovered. Never judge by appearances, yourself or others. God specifically told Samuel not to look at appearance. But look at what God looks at God looks at the heart. So, when you look at yourself, don't ever just say, Oh, I can't do it, because I'm X. Instead say, God puts something in me. And I have that in me. And that's what God sees. And I carry that.

Be patient and don't give up on God's promises for your life. David waited 14 years to really come into his own. If you're still waiting, don't give up. But while you're in the waiting, let waiting not be passive, but let it be active. Find those things in the middle of it. Find the little things that you can do while you're waiting for the big thing. Because more often than not, the big thing doesn't actually come. It's just a million little things that we do that give our lives purpose, that help us to influence other people.

It's the showing up every day. Make space to listen for God, all throughout David's journey. What he did was when he was facing huge battles when he was facing giants, when things were happening that were all the odds were against him. He was like, Give me a minute, I'm gonna go pray, and then I'll be able to come back to the table. And when he faced Goliath, he said, You have weapons, but I have God, essentially.

So, make space to listen to God. Just remember, also, just because it hasn't been done before, doesn't mean it can't be done. Whatever that means for your life. Because it's the meaning that we place on what happens, that affects us, not even what happens. Sometimes in your family history, you're the first person to do something. You're the first person to go to therapy, you're the first person to save up to go to college. David was picked out of his family to be a mighty warrior, not the one he thought, not the one his family thought. Don't be afraid to think outside the box. Under Pressure, David constantly pivoted to save his own destiny and save his own people.

Play the liar whatever your liar is. The world is full of chaos, and fear, and messages. The media right now has a hold on people using this message of fear. Be somebody who plays the liar for society for culture, for yourself. Embrace your own emotions. David is notorious in the psalms for pouring out his heart.

He weeps, he sings, he dances. He worships freely. He's not afraid. If you read the Psalms, he's not all just like Praise God. The sky is blue and the flowers are pretty. He's like, I'll tear my shirt off, and those evil enemies I will kill them. I gotta do something. He's not afraid to pray the honest prayers.

One of my favorite prayers that I saw suggested online was God WTF. You know what that means? Okay. And I think that's what made him so powerful. I think that's what helped him to

keep going. Is that he wasn't afraid to say God, this is so hard. Are these these these circumstances are unimaginable.

Oh, my God, my God, why have you forsaken me? I need your help. What would happen if we actually pray those prayers? Instead of like, Oh, God is so good. He can do it. I'm like, Yeah, sure, like at the end of the day, that's true. But like, what about in the middle of it? How about God? I don't know if you can do it. God, I don't want to do it.

How about God? This sucks. How about God? This isn't fair. How about God? What the heck is going on in the world? How about just telling God, your feelings? God can handle that. God can handle David, God can handle you. And he can handle me. I met Thank you. Amen. Yeah.

And David took the high road, he had opportunities to kill Saul when Saul was trying to kill him. But he would have maybe cut his destiny short. Had he given way to emotion and fear? Sometimes it's better to surrender to the mini battles so that we can win the war in our journeys. Not every situation deserves a fight.

Don't worry about what other people think about you. In David's victory, David danced with lavish love for God. And others made fun of him and mocked him. David made big mistakes, but he made even bigger comebacks. That's my challenge to us is that when we feel like we've made mistakes, or we feel like life has just left us short, make a bigger comeback, and do a faster turnaround.

When you feel like you want to drag it out and mull it over, just turn around, and say, God, here I am. Make something out of it. And just remember that it's never too late. Wherever you are today on your journey, whatever you've been called to. And maybe you're still discovering that. It's never too late to continue that work to do that work.

We might not finish what we're called to do. But we can certainly begin and run our race and then pass the baton on to the ones following us. Today, I believe in one way or another, we've all been called like David to make a true difference in the trajectory of history, and individuals and even in ourselves.

And maybe you felt that calling to do something, or be something, but you're still in waiting, like David, you've been hit with every trial. And it seems like your next season will never come. Maybe you've been overcome by choices that have derailed you. And you want to turn around and write a better ending.

Here's the beautiful thing. You and god, me and God, we always have a pencil and an eraser. And there's always a comma. There's never a period with God. Because we can always put a

comma in our stories and say, I'm not finished yet. And you can change it that when you put a comment or a story and you say and then they took this path and the whole book changes.

And that can happen for each one of us. So, we all matter and we all have a specific purpose. Look, no, we won't all be masters of slingshots beheading our enemies, but we all have that corner of the world. We've all been given that mandate from Jesus to love God and love others as we love ourselves.

If David in his mess wasn't qualified, we certainly aren't either. But we have what it takes because we have that spirit of God with us. Whatever you are nobody in here Scott more God or less God, we've all got the same. Our journey is becoming aware of and partnering with that love and that power for our corner of the world.

I can't do it like you can do it. David did it like he did it. I can't do it. Like he did it. You can't do it like me. I can't do it like you. But we all do it a little bit. And that man that matters. And I'm convinced that David's superpower was his connection to God and his willingness to turn quickly. And face God again.

Whatever that looks like, there's no formula to IT people. Try not to say guys there's no formula to it. Some days it's journaling. It's some days it's for me it's I'm just driving down the road. In my car, and it's just like God, what's up, I need this. I'm here. Thanks for this helped me with this.

Some days it's a song some days, it's a pain of a stroke. Some days it's cooking. It looks like something for all of us, David poured his heart out for us to have, how do you pour your heart out for your corner for them to have. So, I want to invite Matt Kistler up in closing. He's consulting with his manager first.

And Matt teach has taught a class on songwriting. And I asked him to just give us a two-minute synopsis of, of this to encourage us that we too can write our own songs and have a way to turn and connect to God the way that David did.

Matt Kistler

Thanks. In the workshop we had, we came up with this as a definition for a song: a written form of worship in which one authentically addresses God. As a team and as a group of people thinking about how we worship, we see some writing as a powerful tool for people who process, especially in a written or spoken manner.

I think what strikes me about the Psalms is the theme of weaving together the reality that many things are true at the same time. In a psalm, you say how you feel in the most honest and authentic way you can. At the same time, you weave together who God is, what God has done, the challenges you face, the barriers that are there, and the things you long and hope for. All of this is part of the reality you're facing at that moment. A psalm is simply putting that reality down together to say, "I am where I am, and I want to address You with it."

The reason I was addressing my son was because, just as an example, I wanted to share a quick song that he wrote the other day when he was watching fireflies at night:

"Fireflies, fireflies, endless bursts of glowing light,
Fireflies, fireflies, lights of endless praise,
Fireflies, fireflies, light that makes you full of joy,
Fireflies, fireflies, who are just happy,
Fireflies, fireflies, who lived their lives relying only on You,
Fireflies, fireflies, who glow with light all night through the darkness,
Fireflies, fireflies, shine from dusk till dawn."

So, it doesn't take much to recognize that God is here with me. Writing a song or expressing through worship how you feel is an open door that God gives us. It's a tool that we have. David really gave us this beautiful template for that wherever we are, we can say, "This is where I am, and this is who You are. This is what You're doing. This is what I hope for." And just joining God in that moment in that reality.

So, I hope that's something you can find worthwhile in your practices. And if you're interested, now Faith is trying to set up another Psalm workshop so you can reach out to them. We can just make this a regular habit as a community to come together and write songs together.

Rev. Sophia A. Foutres

Thanks, Matt. I love that simple teaching of acknowledging where you are and also acknowledging who God is, and that two things can be true at the same time. That's so good. So, I want us to take a few minutes and have a collective turning to God together because I'm convinced that is the one thing that makes the difference when we turn to God.

So, I want you to try and write your own song. If you could play just a little doodad, thank you. If you have a phone, you can write that, if you have paper great, if you just want to do it in your heart, and just kind of—like I said, there's no formula—but just kind of acknowledging, "God, here I am. Here's where I'm at. Here's who You are, here's maybe what I need," adding in any gratitude, whatever, no formula, and then I'll bring us back together.

Stick a couple more seconds, and then we'll wrap up.

God, thank you for the prayers and the thoughts and the notes, and the questions and the praises that have filled the space. Thank You that You've heard us. Thank you that You are always with us. Help us to turn quickly, no matter what's going on, help us to just turn and look at You again. And thank you that when we do, You're already there holding us, saying, "I'm here." Thank you for Your love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

So, my prayers that you'd continue to have these turning moments, that you'd continue in writing your own songs, whatever that means, welcome to the little children. And that you would be encouraged to continue to influence and show up for the corner that God has entrusted to you. And whenever you get turned around, just turn around and keep turning around. Because no matter which way you turn, God will find you there. And sometimes also, help turn somebody else around and give them that nudge that they need, whenever they're turned around. So, may you be at peace today, may you be encouraged, may you continue to run your race. And remember David in his faith in the midst of his humaneness, and that you too, are called to run your race.