

Faith and Self Image

1 Sam 10:17-24 - Samuel summoned the people of Israel to the LORD at Mizpah 18 and said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I brought Israel up out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the power of Egypt and all the kingdoms that oppressed you.' 19 But you have now rejected your God, who saves you out of all your calamities and distresses. And you have said, 'No, set a king over us.' So now present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and clans." 20 When Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen. 21 Then he brought forward the tribe of Benjamin, clan by clan, and Matri's clan was chosen. Finally Saul son of Kish was chosen. But when they looked for him, he was not to be found. 22 So they inquired further of the LORD, "Has the man come here yet?" And the LORD said, "Yes, **he has hidden himself among the baggage.**" 23 They ran and brought him out, and as he stood among the people he was a head taller than any of the others. 24 Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see the man the LORD has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people." Then the people shouted, "Long live the king!" ^{NIV}

1. We Are Meant To Be Secure In The Image We Have Of Ourselves.

THE SYMPTOMS OF A POOR SELF-IMAGE:

- Feeling less than what Jesus says we are
- Feeling crippled in your soul
- Inferiority, subtle apologies for your very existence

Mark 4:16-17 - Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. 17 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ^{NIV}

THE PROBLEM:

2. In the seat of the soul where nourishment flows is a foundation based on people's opinions or past and present circumstances.

Heb 3:13 - But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Lev 26:36f. - "As for those of you who are left, I will make their hearts so fearful in the lands of their enemies that the sound of a windblown leaf will put them to flight. They will run as though fleeing from the sword, and they will fall, even though no one is pursuing them.

- When you're building faith, you're starving fear.

Heb 3:19 - So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their **unbelief**.

3. Our self-image actually diminishes when doubt and unbelief and fear are given a place to live.

Num 13:1f, 31-33 - The LORD said to Moses, 2 "Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites... 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." 32 And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the

people we saw there are of great size. 33 We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

HOW DO WE GET A HEALTHY SELF-IMAGE?

- 4. It begins with a healthy self-love.**