

No One Is an Accident

Psalm 139: 13-16 (New American Standard Bible)

¹³ For You created my innermost parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I will give thanks to You, because **I am awesomely and wonderfully made;**
Wonderful are Your works, And **my soul knows it very well.**

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You When I was made in secret,
And skillfully formed in the depths of the earth;

¹⁶ Your eyes have seen my formless substance; **And in Your book were written**
All the days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them.

Introduction

Has anyone ever told you that you were an accident? I know a sister in Christ, let's call her Jeanne. She was born during the Great Depression era. *You are an accident*, her parents told her. *We didn't plan to have another baby and you came along*, they said. At first, she didn't understand what it meant. Later, she was quite upset with that statement for her entire life. Even when she was an adult and happily married, she still struggled with the feeling that she wasn't wanted. Like a fifth wheel. Like a life unimportant. Like a person unwanted. Like a person with less worth.

If any of you feel the same way, I pray that this morning's message would speak to your heart and help you to overcome that stigma on your soul. You're not an accident, God says. In fact, no one is an accident. Everyone is important to God and to others. You're a masterpiece of God's handiwork.

Content

Definition of accident: an unfortunate incident that happens unexpectedly and unintentionally, typically resulting in damage or injury.

Unfortunate. Unexpected. Unintentional. Some of us feel that way about ourselves. To overcome such feelings, we need the Lord. The best way to counterattack such negative feelings is God's Word. God says, no, you're not an accident. You're not unfortunate. You weren't born unexpectedly. Your birth was never unintentional. On the contrary, you're blessed in the sight of God. Your birth was well-planned. The Lord says, "Your entire life is also recorded in My book even before you were born."

Let me introduce to you a man whose life has changed from nobody to somebody only after he met the Lord, after he walked with the Lord, and after he believed and trusted

in the Lord. His name was David. Yes, that David who fought with Goliath with five stones and sling. Yes, that shepherd boy who later became king of Israel. That David who wrote Psalm 23. He also wrote today's text, Psalm 139.

Did you know that before he became king, David was a mere shepherd boy? He wasn't treated as hero either by his own family or others. Not even close. Let me tell you his story as recorded in the Bible.

One day God sent Prophet Samuel to Jesse (David's father). His mission? To choose the next king of Israel among Jesse's sons (1 Samuel 16:1). Upon Samuel's request, Jesse the father had his boys, seven altogether, pass one by one before Samuel according to their birth order. From the oldest to the youngest. Guess what? Even in that lineup, David, the number 8, was not included. Jesse didn't think it was necessary. David was tending the sheep instead.

Listen to God's Word. ⁶ When they entered, he looked at **Eliab** and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is standing before Him." ⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God does not see as man sees, since man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." ⁸ Then Jesse called **Abinadab** and had him pass before Samuel. But he said, "The Lord has not chosen this one, either." ⁹ Next Jesse had **Shammah** pass by. And he said, "The Lord has not chosen this one, either." ¹⁰ So Jesse had **seven of his sons** pass before Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." ¹¹ Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are these all the boys?" And he said, "The youngest is still left, but behold, he is tending the sheep." So Samuel said to Jesse, "Send word and bring him; for we will not take our places at the table until he comes here" (1 Samuel 16:6-11). Later that day, David was anointed to be the next king of Israel.

Soon after this incident, a war broke out between Israel and Philistines. For days, Goliath the Philistine came out and challenged the army of Israel to send out one to fight him. Because he was a giant, close to 10-foot-tall, all the army of Israel feared. No one dared to fight him, not even King Saul.

For your information, Jesse's three oldest sons previously mentioned were there in the battlefield. Where was David the youngest? He was at home still tending the sheep. One day, his father sent him to deliver food to his brothers in the camp. Then, David heard Goliath harassing the army of Israel. Like this. ⁸ "... Choose a man as your representative and have him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight me and kill me, then we will become your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall become our servants and serve us." ... ¹¹ When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and very fearful...

²⁶ Then David said to the men who were standing by him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and rids Israel of the disgrace?" They said, "The king will make the

man who kills him wealthy with great riches, and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel" (v. 25).

²⁸ Now Eliab his oldest brother heard him when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger burned against David and he said, "Why is it that you have come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I myself know your insolence and the wickedness of your heart; for you have come down in order to see the battle." ²⁹ But David said, "What have I done now? Was it not just a question?"

³¹ When the words that David spoke were heard, they informed Saul, and he sent for him. ³² And David said to Saul, "May no one's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight this Philistine!" ³³ But Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight him; for you are only a youth, while he has been a warrior since his youth." ³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a sheep from the flock, ³⁵ I went out after it and attacked it, and rescued the sheep from its mouth; and when it rose up against me, I grabbed it by its mane and struck it and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God." ³⁷ And David said, "The Lord who saved me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear, He will save me from the hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the Lord be with you."...

⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them... in his shepherd's pouch, and his sling was in his hand; and he approached the Philistine.

⁴² When the Philistine looked and saw David, he was contemptuous of him; for he was only a youth, and reddish, with a handsome appearance. ⁴³ So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ The Philistine also said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the wild animals." ⁴⁵ But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a saber, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of armies, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the Lord will hand you over to me, and I will strike you and remove your head from you. Then I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷ and that this entire assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword or by spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will hand you over to us!"

⁴⁸ Then it happened, when the Philistine came closer to meet David, that David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹ And David put his hand into his bag and took from it a stone and slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead. And the stone penetrated his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

⁵⁰ ... there was no sword in David's hand. ⁵¹ Then David ran and stood over the Philistine, and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and finished him, and cut off his head with it (1 Samuel 17:8-51).

Quite a story, isn't it? What do we see here? Outside, we see a shepherd boy who was treated rather poorly by his own family. He was left out by his own father in the first round of selection to be king. He was a lunch boy whom his own brother called 'insolent' and 'wicked.' King Saul told him that he wasn't a warrior to fight Goliath. He was even despised and cursed by Goliath.

Yet, we also see a boy whose heart was fixed on the Lord. We see a mighty shepherd who slayed both the lion and the bear in the field. We see a mighty warrior who confronted the giant not with sword but in the name of the Lord and slayed him. Where did such courage come from? It was from the Lord. Remember Psalm 23:4? *Even though I walk through the valley of shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me. Your rod and Your staff they comfort me.* The same Lord makes the difference in our lives as well.

In Psalm 139, David wrote down how much the Lord is involved in his life, from birth to death and in between. He teaches us three lessons.

1. Nobody else, nothing else, but God who created your innermost parts and wove you in your mother's womb in an awesome and wonderful manner. You are not a random product of evolution. Nor an accident. You are created with purpose (v. 13). You are a wonderful work of God.
2. It is God who has mapped out your whole life. You may not know it, but the Lord has ordained all the days of your life, and they are written in His book (v. 16). Your days are planned when your substance was formless.
3. Does your soul know these truths well? (v. 14). Never forget who created you. Never forget how wonderful a work of God you are. Praise God and thank Him for your life (v. 14). Etch such truths about you in your heart and constantly dwell on them. You're an awesome and astonishing work of God.

Conclusion

The best antidote to low self-esteem is not seminars, books, or pep-talks. It is the Lord and His Word. You need God. Meeting God is a game changer. His Word will change you forever. Your life will never be the same after you meet the Lord. My own experience. One day God assured me: You're my beloved son with whom I am well pleased (Mark 1:11). That was a life-changer. That's all I needed. That's what matters to me. The Lord says I am His and His treasured possession. That's good enough for me. It is good enough for you too. We are God's wonderful works, never an accident. Amen.