

# Samuel Anoints David: what is God really interested in about you?

*Assembly by Sarah Curl, Chaplain, November 2021*

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Stand up if you think you are tall

Stand up if you think you are short

At my last visit to my GP I was measured – and I am proud to say that I am just over 4ft 10 inches tall. So stand up if you are under 5ft tall – welcome to the 4 ft something club!

Now for those who are taller let me share a little about the world that shorter people live in. Imagine it's a hot summer day and you are in London and you get onto a crowded tube train at about 5pm its rush hour, there are no seats and those loopy handles you get to hold onto that are attached to the roof, well if you are in the 4ft something club we can't reach those easily, no we have to grab a bar or the back of a seat in order to hold on, for years I commuted through London on packed tube trains holding onto the bar and with all those taller people with their arms up holding onto the loopy handles guess what – yup you got it – I used to travel to work and back with my face in the sweaty armpits of my fellow travellers.

Concerts, theatre, even in church if you are in the 4ft something club we have to find a way to see so we crane our heads around the shapes of the people in front of us, as they move their heads we have to reposition to get a glimpse of what is going on at the front. Another example I went to see the band Blondie at Glastonbury Festival I was very excited as this was my absolutely favourite band when I was younger I went early got myself into a good position, and then worming their way through the crowd towards me three big tall men stood right in front of me. Did I stay quiet NO I did not all I can say about the scene that occurred is best summed up in a quote from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* "And though she be but little she is fierce"

Another challenge is that it's harder to be seen, a comment was made a few weeks ago to my daughter who is here somewhere at the back, her friend said – I can hear your mum, but I can't see her. So today I will stand on this (show portable step)– it's a must have if you are in the 4ft something club. These are very important to us because when you are 4ft something you can't always reach the floor with your feet when sat on a chair, trousers and dresses are always too long. I can't reach the top two shelves of my fridge without standing on my portable step, and I can't reach the top shelves of my kitchen cupboards even with the step and do you know what is even more frustrating is that it these high shelves where my husband stashes his chocolate and custard cream biscuits. But when you are in the 4ft something club you quickly learn to be resourceful, if I am desperate for a custard cream

the broom is my helper and I can hook those biscuits off that shelf in seconds.

Bring short doesn't bother me anymore but when I was younger it did – a lot. I felt overlooked sometimes, you get given names mine were shorty and pint size and my mum used call me 'Sarah Wee' – yes you heard it right Sarah Wee. Wee in Scottish means little. I did not like her calling me Sarah Wee for all the reasons you are thinking right now.

But it's not all doom and gloom for us in the 4ft something club we always have leg room on planes, trains and buses. We never have to duck down to get through doorways. We are always called to be in the front of group photos. Apparently short people are at a lower risk of sun stroke. But my favourite one that I have discovered is that if you are short of height, information travels to your brain faster. According to studies by neurologists, taller people experience a slowed down version of the world.

Back to the story we heard in the scripture reading. Samuel, a faithful servant of God, was told by God to go to Bethlehem and find the Sons of the Jesse family because God was going to make one of them the very first King of Israel and Judah.

So, Samuel went and found the family and gathered the people together. Samuel presented each of the sons to God, he was confident, they looked the part they were tall, strong and healthy men, but when each of these men was presented to the God – God said no he's not the one. Samuel was confused because God had not chosen any of the sons of Jesse to be King even though in Samuels opinion, they looked perfect for the job.

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

This is when Samuel asks the father of the Jesse family, 'do you have any other Sons'? And Jesse says 'Yes, my youngest son is out in the fields looking after the sheep, but he is just a boy'. Samuel asked for the boy to be brought to him. When Samuel saw the young small shepherd boy, he heard God whisper to him 'anoint this boy with oil he is the King of Israel and Judah'.

So, who was this small boy, well do you remember the story of Goliath the huge Soldier with his shield, sword and armour who was killed by a small boy with a catapult and stone – Yes that's right David. Goliath probably found it hilarious that this unarmed small person thought he could defeat him, how could he, he was tiny in comparison to him, but we know that David did. David went on to be a great King, he was an accomplished musician and fair and considerate leader

Dr Moberly from the University of Durham says this – David was the first king in Jerusalem whose reign was later looked back on as a golden era. He is known both as a great fighter and as the "sweet singer of Israel", the source of poems and songs, some of which are collected in the book of Psalms.

So what can we take from the story of David. What I think is that we make judgements about someone often based on what we see on the outside. It could be what we look like if we are tall or short, what clothes we wear designer new or designer charity shop, what school or university we go to Cambridge or Wolverhampton, perhaps that we didn't go to

university. It could be whether we have expensive cars, or cars with bits falling off, live in massive houses or a small council flat, the latest apple watches, or Gucci handbags, it could be the job we do whether we have a professional status or not. It could be the family we belong to the price of our trainers the amount of pocket money we get. These aren't bad things at all, but it is often how we judge one another? We often strive for the material things of this world, more money, good holidays, trendy clothes, it's good to strive for excellence in your education good luck 6th form in wherever you find yourself next. But none of these things are as important or valuable than what is in your heart. So, what is in your heart? Are you kind or are you sometimes unkind to others behind their back, are you generous or does sharing what you have bother you. Is your heart loving and compassionate or do you feel intolerant with others who are not like you? Are there things in your heart that need sorting out?

So, to the 4ft something club whatever challenges you face, know that God is not interested in how tall or short you are, he will not overlook you WHY because he not interested in what you look like on the outside because he is focussed on what is in your heart.

Amen