

Hope for the rest of us

1 Samuel 2:3-8

“Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the LORD is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed. The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. Those who were full, hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry hunger no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away...The LORD sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts. He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor.”
(NIV)

For every promotion you get—there’s usually someone who applied, who wanted it, and who *didn’t* get it.

The layoff at work that passed you by instead targeted another employee.

The blessing of being the winning bidder on that new house turns out to be someone else’s let down, their heartbreaking disappointment.

We value strength as a culture. We glow and gloat in the break room about our good fortune, and our much deserved rewards. We praise getting ahead, and take comfort in coming out on top.

Isn’t it interesting that God seems to have a different value system? While everyone else is boasting about being better than their competitor, He appears concerned about the little guy, the one who got knocked of line, who was left in the dust. His heart goes out to the weak—the person that didn’t get the raise; who couldn’t pay their bills last month and had to ask for help; the one who lost a child or who didn’t get their moment in the spotlight.

God promises hope for the let down, left out, and left behind. But it’s not just about wishful thinking that someday “things will get better.” No, the hope for the hopeless is this: they are God’s kind of people—those at the end of their rope are, always, in every age, the friends of God.

BMB

Point for Prayer:

When was the time that you were given an opportunity at the expense of another? Did you consider them? When was a time you were passed over? Why does that consideration matter? What is God’s value system about opportunity?