

## **Sermon**

### ***That which is meant for you, will not miss you...***

Pastor Lisa Giacomazza

Bacon Memorial Presbyterian Church

March 15, 2026

There are moments in life when we realize just how limited our vision really is. We think we know what we're looking at. We think we understand who someone is, what a situation means, how a story will turn out. But then something happens—a conversation, a surprise, a disruption—and suddenly the picture shifts. What we thought we saw so clearly wasn't the whole truth at all.

Scripture is full of these moments when God gently, or sometimes abruptly, teaches people to see differently.

In **1 Samuel 16**, Samuel arrives in Bethlehem with a horn of oil and a heavy heart. He's grieving Saul, uncertain about the future, and trying to follow God's next instruction. Samuel grew up in a time when Israel is spiritually unsteady and politically fragile. He's the last of the judges—a prophet, priest, and leader who listens closely to God. His whole life is marked by obedience and deep faithfulness.

But the people want something different. They want a king “like the other nations,” someone who looks strong, impressive, and capable of protecting them. Samuel warns them that kings can be dangerous—that power can twist even good intentions—but they insist. Reluctantly, Samuel

anoints Saul because God allows it. Even then, Samuel carries a kind of parental hope for Saul. He wants this to work.

Saul begins with all the outward signs of success. He's tall, charismatic, and looks every bit the king the people imagined. But beneath the surface, Saul struggles. He's impulsive. He's anxious. He has a hard time trusting God's timing and God's instructions. Over time, his disobedience becomes a pattern, not a moment.

The breaking point comes when Saul directly disobeys God's command and then tries to justify it. Samuel confronts him, and it's clear: Saul's heart is no longer aligned with God's heart. God rejects Saul as king—not out of spite, but because Saul refuses to be shaped by God's guidance.

This is the part we often overlook: Samuel grieves Saul. He's not just disappointed; he's heartbroken. He had hoped Saul would grow into the role. He had invested himself in Saul's leadership. So when God says, "How long will you mourn for Saul?" it's not a rebuke—it's an invitation to move forward, even with a heavy heart.

By the time we reach 1 Samuel 16, Samuel is emotionally exhausted, politically vulnerable, and spiritually cautious. He's stepping into a dangerous assignment—anointing a new king while the old one is still on the throne. When Jesse's sons line up, Samuel does what any of us would do: he looks at the tallest, strongest, most impressive one and thinks, *Surely this is the one*. But God interrupts him with a truth that still unsettles and liberates us today:

**“The Lord does not see as mortals see.”** God looks past the surface and sees the heart.

We’ve all lived some version of Samuel’s moment. Someone we trusted, someone we thought we understood, suddenly acts in a way that leaves us stunned. On the surface we might show frustration or disappointment, but underneath there’s something much deeper—grief. Because it’s not just the action that hurts; it’s the loss of who we believed that person to be.

And sometimes, like Saul, those moments stop being isolated missteps and start becoming patterns. Patterns that reveal something we didn’t want to see. Patterns that make it clear that the relationship, the situation, the season we’re in is no longer what God intends for us. As painful as it is, there comes a point when we, like Samuel, have to face the truth: God wants more for us than this. God never meant for us to stay stuck in a place that keeps wounding us.

And that’s where the hard, holy work begins—the work of turning, of moving in a new direction, even when our hearts are still tender. It’s the moment when God gently says, “How long will you mourn? I have something new for you to see.”

And this is where John 9 meets us so beautifully. Because when Jesus encounters the man born blind, He isn’t just restoring eyesight—He’s restoring vision. Everyone else in the story is stuck in their old ways of seeing. The disciples look at the man and see a theological problem. The neighbors see a

disruption to their routine. The religious leaders see a threat to their authority. Even his own parents see a situation too risky to get involved in.

But Jesus sees a person. A life. A story ready to unfold. Someone worth touching, healing, and lifting into the light.

And the man himself—he becomes a picture of what it looks like to grow into God’s vision. His physical eyes open first, but then his spiritual sight keeps widening. With every question, every challenge, every step he takes toward Jesus, he sees more clearly. While everyone else clings to their assumptions, he walks into a new way of seeing.

Just like Samuel, he discovers that God is doing something new right in front of him. And just like Samuel, he has to let go of the old narratives—about himself, about God, about what is possible—in order to step into the future God is revealing.

Because this is what God does. God opens eyes. God expands vision. God helps us see what we could not see before—about others, about ourselves, about the world, about God’s presence in the very places we thought were hopeless.

Life can feel overwhelming at times. The pace of the world, the noise, the uncertainty—it all moves faster than most of us ever expected to experience. So much around us feels unclear, shifting, unsettled. And yet, in the middle of all that we cannot see or predict, one truth remains steady: **God is still God.** God knows our lives from the inside out—our fears, our hopes, our longings, our hidden questions. God sees what we cannot. God

understands what we struggle to make sense of. And God is powerful enough to intervene in ways we could never imagine, both in our own stories and in the world around us.

It's not ours to figure everything out. Sometimes the holiest thing we can do is simply get through this day, trusting the One who already holds tomorrow. What is meant for us will not pass us by. What God intends to heal, God will heal. What God intends to restore, God will restore. Even in our grief, even in our disappointment, even when we're afraid of what comes next, God is already preparing something new.

Just as God opened Samuel's eyes to see a king where no one else saw potential, and just as Jesus opened the eyes of the man born blind at exactly the right moment, God will open our eyes too—when we are ready, when the time is right, when our hearts can bear the truth God wants to show us.

And so we keep believing. We keep holding onto hope for a better tomorrow. Because even in a world that feels chaotic, God is quietly, faithfully at work.

Sometimes I look out the window and I'm reminded of this. Each tree stands in its own shape and strength. Every bird carries its own song and flight. And now, as the earth begins to wake from a long, cold winter, tiny shoots will soon push through the soil—small signs that what looked lifeless was only resting. New life always finds its way. God makes sure of it.

So maybe this is the invitation for us today: to trust that even when our vision is cloudy, even when the path ahead feels uncertain, God is already

seeing what we cannot. God is already preparing what we are not yet ready to behold. God is already shaping something new—within us, around us, and sometimes in spite of us.

Like Samuel, we may carry grief for what has been lost. Like the man born blind, we may be stepping into a future we've never seen before. And like both of them, we are held by a God who sees the whole picture.

A God who knows our hearts. A God who understands our fears. A God who is not threatened by our questions or our hesitation. A God who waits patiently until the moment is right to open our eyes.

So we keep walking. We keep trusting. We keep believing that hope is not naïve—it is necessary because the God who brought David out of obscurity and the God who brought sight to a man who had never seen a sunrise is the same God who is at work in us.

And when we look around—really look—we begin to notice the quiet signs of that work. The world waking up after winter. Trees standing in their own unique beauty. Birds carrying their own songs. Tiny green shoots pushing through cold soil, reminding us that life has a way of returning, even when everything looked still and silent.

This is the promise: **God is not finished.** Not with us. Not with our community. Not with this world.

May God open our eyes in God's perfect timing. May God give us the courage to see what is true, the grace to release what is no longer ours, and the hope to embrace what is being made new.

And until that day comes— we hold onto faith, we hold onto one another, and we hold onto the God who sees us fully and loves us completely.

Amen.