

Chosen by God

by Pamela Hall



The Surprising Choice by Jacob

Read [Genesis 25:19-34](#)

Did you dread those times in gym class when the teacher chose two kids to be team captains? One by one, each kid was chosen for a team. If chosen early, life was good. But if not, there you stood in front of God and everybody feeling exposed and vulnerable. I was never one of the early picks.

As the smallest girl in my class, I was usually chosen late in the pick. Another reason had to do my response when a ball flew towards me. I can still see it in my mind. Hands flying upward towards the heavens, strange shrieking noises coming out of my mouth, and worst of all, the jumping dance where my knees were practically touching my nose. Silently I prayed begging God to not let the ball hit me when I should have prayed just the opposite. "Please God let the ball knock me out. Just put me out of my misery." Unconsciousness was preferable to humiliation. Trust me it was not a pretty sight.

A few years ago while on a church staff retreat, I had a similar experience. It was announced that we would be playing a game requiring a partner. The guys were thrilled because the game allowed them to demonstrate their athletic prowess, but I did not share their same excitement. A vision of the jumping dance was quickly followed by the assumption that no one would ask me to be on their team. When one of the guys asked me to be his partner, I was shocked and relieved. Surprisingly, I was his first choice not his second or third.

Our team played round after round, and we found ourselves in the final game. My male co-workers and friends were cheering me on because I was the last girl standing. The irony of the story is that I am not a great athlete. Other people in the room should have played that final round, but I was there because someone chose me not based on my ability but on our friendship.

The patriarch Jacob was not chosen because he was godly or even because he was good. He was chosen because God was sovereign and gracious. Though undeserving, Jacob was a recipient of God's transforming grace. Let me paint a scene of what it might have been like when God chose Jacob. Imagine being in the throne room of heaven. God stands to pick his team. Off to one side we see Jacob hiding behind a tall guy named Goliath. God also sees him. He sees his deceptive, controlling, and manipulative nature. We think to ourselves, "He will never be picked." Then to our surprise, we hear God say, "I choose Jacob." Shock and disbelief are replaced with amazement as Jacob goes forward. He was the most unlikely choice.

Now imagine that God stands again, but this time his eyes are focused on you. His penetrating gaze looks into your very soul. He sees everything you have ever done. He sees your sinfulness and all the junk that make you the least likely choice. To your surprise, he lovingly looks into your eyes and says, "I choose you." In God's presence, aware of his holiness and your unworthiness, you rise and go forward. Like Jacob, you have been created for his glory. Chosen not based on godliness or even goodness, but by God's sovereign and gracious will. You are a trophy of God's grace.

Reflections:

If the God of heaven and earth chose you personally to be his child, what does this truth reveal about your value?

In what ways is this truth making a difference in your life today?

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