

1 & 2 Samuel (A Man After God's Own Heart)

God Pursues David, Part 1

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1 Samuel 16:1-23

1 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." 2 And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' 3 And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you." 4 Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" 5 And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

- Israel's next king would be found among Jesse's sons. Cf. **Ruth 4:17, 22**
- Saul was anointed for the people, but their choice failed and disqualified him. Now the Lord will choose a king for Himself.

6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him." 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 10 And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." 11 Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." 12 And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

- God had a man in mind different from Samuel's or Jesse's expectation. Choosing solely based on outward appearance was the same mistake Israel made about their first king, Saul. Cf. **John 7:24**

The person God would select would be lowly shepherd boy, David: 1) his father didn't even mention him by name, 2) he wasn't even invited to the sacrificial feast, 3) he was only called to come because Samuel insisted on it.

- David's years keeping the sheep were not waiting time; they were training time. Cf. **Psalms 78:70-72**

- **David was prepared privately, quietly, almost invisibly.** Cf. **1 Samuel 13:14** *The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people.*

God's choice of David reveals a great truth about God's heart. We don't have to quit our jobs to take on a full-time ministry position to be people after God's own heart. We don't need to be famous or important to be people after God's own heart. We don't need to be respected or even liked by others to be people after God's own heart. We don't need status, influence, power, or money to be people after God's own heart.

14 Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him. 15 And Saul's servants said to him, "Behold now, a harmful spirit from God is tormenting you. 16 Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well." 17 So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me." 18 One of the young men answered, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the Lord is with him." 19 Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me David your son, who is with the sheep." 20 And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread and a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them by David his son to Saul. 21 And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. 22 And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight." 23 And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.

- God can work actively or passively. Actively, God never initiates or performs evil; He is the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning, Cf. **James 1:17**. Passively, God may withdraw the hand of His protection and therefore allow evil to come, without being the source of the evil itself. In the New Testament people can be turned over to the devil. Cf. **Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5; 2 Corinthians 12:7; Romans 1:18-25**
- David needed skill to lead Saul in worship and to minister to him in music. The technical quality of his music was important. The heart matters, but so does technical ability.
- Sovereignly, David finds himself in Saul's throne room. The person who is anointed to replace him, in this moment of ignorance and desperation brings him refreshment.

Discipleship Homework:

Our theme references David being a “man after his [God’s] own heart.” Throughout 1 and 2 Samuel God pursues this newly anointed king to lead His people.

- Think about the role of appearances in your own life and society. How can you work to see people as God sees them, rather than making judgments based on outward appearances?
- Read Luke 16:10. David was faithfully tending to his flock of sheep before he would ever shepherd a nation as king. What are some small things you can be faithful to?
- David was a skilled musician. How can you use your talents and skills, like David did, to bring glory to God and serve others?
- Take time to read Matthew 5:2-12 and pray, asking the Holy Spirit for guidance and strength to embody the principles outlined in these beatitudes in your daily life.
- Have questions about the message or need help with the homework? Please email Pastor Jarrod at jarrod@1116.church.