

1 Samuel 16:1-13 – God Looks At The Heart

June 5, 2022

And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, the LORD has set a king over you. 1 Samuel 12:13 (ESV)

Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. And Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel. 1 Samuel 15:34–35 (ESV)

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel?... 1 Samuel 16:1a (ESV)

- In the darkest moments of our suffering, God is often preparing his power and grace.

...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.” 1 Samuel 16:1b (ESV)

...I have provided for myself a king among his sons...

*“...Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.”
1 Samuel 8:5 (ESV)*

And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, the Lord has set a king over you. 1 Samuel 12:13 (ESV)

*But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”
1 Samuel 13:14 (ESV)*

And Samuel said to him, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you."

1 Samuel 15:28 (ESV)

And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me."...

1 Samuel 16:2a (ESV)

...And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' 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." 1 Samuel 16:2b-3 (ESV)

Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem...

1 Samuel 16:4a (ESV)

...The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" 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. 1 Samuel 16:4b-5 (ESV)

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." 1 Samuel 16:6 (ESV)

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." 1 Samuel 16:7 (ESV)

But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously, who tests the heart and the mind,... Jeremiah 11:20a (ESV)

- A man after God's own heart is talking about the place the man has in God's heart, not the place God has in the man's heart.

Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness, to make your servant know it. 2 Samuel 7:21 (ESV)

Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen these.”
1 Samuel 16:8–10 (ESV)

For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you,...
1 Thessalonians 1:4 (ESV)

Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?”... 1 Samuel 16:11a (ESV)

...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.” 1 Samuel 16:11 (ESV)

And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome... 1 Samuel 16:12a (ESV)

...And the LORD said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.” 1 Samuel 16:12b (ESV)

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers....
1 Samuel 16:13a (ESV)

...And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah. 1 Samuel 16:13b (ESV)

Lessons From David's Anointing

1. When God's Spirit came on David, it introduced him to trouble. It didn't take him away from trouble.

2. God began preparing David to be king long before he made him king.
3. God often uses the least likely to accomplish his purposes.

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, and not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 1 Corinthians 1:26–27 (ESV)

4. The qualities God desires out of our life are the qualities he brings about through the Holy Spirit in our life.
5. When looking at people, be careful to not judge by appearances.
6. A man after God's own heart is talking about the place the man has in God's heart, not the place God has in the man's heart.
7. How are you judging Jesus?

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Micah 5:2 (ESV)

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:8–12 (ESV)

Life Group Questions

1. Like Samuel do we mourn over the sin of others? If not, why not?
2. Did the Lord tell Samuel to mislead Saul by saying that he was going to Bethlehem to offer sacrifices?
3. Are we ever justified in deceiving others? Is it permissible to conceal the truth from those who have no right to it?
4. When are we tempted to judge others merely by outward appearances?
5. What criteria should we use when selecting our leaders and friends?
6. It is important to know that a man after God's own heart is talking about the place a man has in God's heart, not ultimately the place God has in a man's heart? Why is this subtle difference important?
7. Point 3 of our 5-Year Vision is that we love our neighbor to better reach our neighbors. With the warmer weather, make a plan to love on people in your neighborhood?
8. Take some time to share stories of how you have seen God at work by his Holy Spirit changing your life or the lives of others. Celebrate the transforming power of God's Holy Spirit in your life.