

DAVID, THE CHOSEN KING

+ SESSION IN A SENTENCE:

God is always at work raising up new leaders to serve Him and His people.

+ BACKGROUND PASSAGE:

1 Samuel 16

+ SETTING:

As we saw in 1 Samuel 13–15, Saul had disobeyed the Lord’s instructions and had been rejected as king by God. Though Saul twice had admitted his sin (1 Sam. 15:24,30), his kingdom reign was on a downward spiral. And though Samuel never again visited Saul, he mourned over the broken relationship and the broken ruler. God chooses His rulers intentionally and calls them to be worthy of imitation (see Heb. 13:7). The Lord regretted making Saul king, but His plan for redemption was not thwarted. He had another man in mind, one who may not have had a kingly bearing but who had a God-focused heart.

DAY 1

READ:

1 Samuel 16:1-10

FOCAL PASSAGE:

1 Samuel 16:1

NOTES

Read aloud the question God asked of Samuel in verse 1: “How long . . . ?” Now, what was the attitude you used in echoing God’s voice? Was it one of patient compassion? Did it hold stern overtones? Perhaps a combination of both?

We don’t know the tone of God’s voice—or His attitude—in talking to Samuel. But we know one thing for sure: God was ready to move on and Samuel was sitting still.

This reminds me of a similar situation with my daughter when she was three years old. She wanted to go on a walk to the end of our road. As the adult, I should have used better judgment in saying yes, but we took off down the hill (yes, down the hill) for over a mile. When we got to the end and turned around to come back, she sat down on the side of the road, crossed her arms, and said, “I can’t go back. I’m just too tired.”

Perhaps that’s where Samuel was. He had been devoted to the Lord since before his birth, he had served as prophet and priest and judge, and he had done all he could to lead young Saul as the king for God’s people. And the whole thing had fallen apart at his feet. Samuel had done all he could do, but it wasn’t enough. That’s exhausting. Maybe his mourning had the same overtones: “I can’t do it. I’m just too tired.”

Aren’t we blessed to have a God whose strength is infinite, whose power is eternal, and whose faithfulness is new every morning? When you feel the prompting of God to get up and start moving, you can trust His timing and His compassion.

In what area of life do you feel exhausted? Is this a time to rest or a time to get up and get going?

DAY 2

READ:

1 Samuel 16:11-13

FOCAL PASSAGE:

1 Samuel 16:11

NOTES

Why wasn't David invited to the sacrificial meal with the great prophet Samuel? Likely the family agreed that someone needed to stay home and take care of the sheep; after all, they had their livelihood to protect.

But why would David have to stay behind? Perhaps he was thought to be too young and would only get himself in trouble in such a formal setting. Maybe he was actually the best one for the shepherding position. Or perhaps he didn't want to go, preferring the sheep and the outdoors to getting ceremonially clean.

Sometimes we feel like David in our families, in our church small groups, or in our circles of friends or acquaintances—we just aren't included. Sometimes it's our own fault: we don't really want to go, we don't enjoy the setting, or it's just not our kind of gathering. Sometimes we are the most hardworking, and heaven only knows what would happen to the house (or the business or the kids or the yard) if we left for a decent amount of time. Sometimes, sadly, no one thought to invite us; that hurts deeply.

But like David, we can find confidence in the truth that God sees us. He knows our strengths and our talents, even if no one else acknowledges them. He acknowledges our hard work and the selfless giving of our time. He knows our tendencies and our preferences, for He made us different from the people around us. He also has a plan for each of us, at any age and at any stage of life, that looks to His glory and our glorious future. You are not forgotten, and you are not alone.

What are some ways you can remind yourself of God's love during your loneliness?

VOICES from CHURCH HISTORY

"Wait for the Lord; be strong and take courage. Do not despair or give up, but be constant in offering both body and soul for the glory of God. I shall reward you abundantly. I shall be with you in every trial."¹

-Thomas à Kempis
(c. 1380-1471)

DAY 3

READ:

1 Samuel 16:14-18

FOCAL PASSAGE:

1 Samuel 16:18

NOTES

Last summer, I taught 5th grade at my church's VBS. In our first session together, I asked the group, "What do you know about me?" Their answers varied: "You're Shelby's mom." "You're Daniel's mom." "You're married to Mr. David." I repeated my question: "What do you know about me?" They returned my question with blank stares. These were kids who, for the most part, had grown up knowing me and my family in various ways. How did they not know me?

As a child, we're known by our parents, our grade in school, or our siblings. As we age, our identity is more closely attached to our job, our spouse, our kids, or other distinguishing characteristics. Those who would claim to know us might actually know very little about who we are inside.

How much time do you invest in knowing—really knowing—your friends and family? When was the last time you sat down over a cup of coffee with nothing more on the agenda than getting to know someone better? How many people know your deepest fears, your grandest dreams, and more than one item on your bucket list? Saul's servants had heard about the young man David—he knew how to play the lyre. But that wasn't all—he was valiant, a warrior, handsome, and the Lord was with him (1 Sam. 16:18). David's reputation was known far and wide, and not just his external descriptions but also his character and heart.

How do we get to know people like that? We must walk through life together, openly and honestly. We share our dreams and our fears and dare others to do the same. We pray for their sick kids but also for their broken hearts, fearful thoughts, and deepest regrets. We choose to be vulnerable, to love boldly, and to reveal ourselves with honesty.

Who would you like to get to know—really know—better? How can you do that this week?

DAY 4

READ:

1 Samuel 16:19-23

FOCAL PASSAGE:

1 Samuel 16:21

NOTES

In 1 Samuel 16:21, we see that Saul loved David very much. Almost every translation of the Bible uses the word “love” to describe the feeling that Saul felt for David. But the Hebrew word translated “love” has a wide array of uses: It can mean love for a son (Gen. 22:2), love for a wife (Gen. 24:67), love for savory meat (Gen. 27:4), loving a stranger (Lev. 19:34), loving the Lord (Deut. 6:5), love from a daughter-in-law to her mother-in-law (Ruth 4:15), love between friends (1 Sam. 18:1), and the love of a nation for its hero (1 Sam. 18:16).

Saul loved David, but it seems that love was limited to what David could do for Saul. At this point, David soothed the tortured mind of his king, but before long, David would become a focal point of the king’s ire and paranoia (1 Sam. 18:10-11). His “love” soon became hate.

The question to be asked, then, is how do we differentiate our love? If you love your children the same way you love fishing, something may be off. If you love your job but wouldn’t go in without a paycheck, is “love” really the right word to use?

And how do you love the Lord? Do you talk to Him whenever something significant happens? Do you talk about Him with others? Do you share a good laugh with the Lord whenever He puts joy in your heart or a funny situation in your life? Do you offer Him your time, your talents, your passion, your creativity, and your freshest hours of your day? Are you confident in His love for you and can you put it into words?

Today would be a good day to reflect on your love for God versus your love for anything else: Is He first? Is He best? Is He the only One you worship? Or does your love for Him look like the same kind of love you have for a good burger? Is your love for God only a moment away from hate?

What are the reasons for your love for God? Are those reasons enough to sustain your love regardless of your circumstances? Why or why not?

DAY 5

READ:

1 Samuel 16:14-23

FOCAL PASSAGE:

1 Samuel 16:22

NOTES



ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE #55: CHRIST'S HUMILIATION

Although God the Son is equal with God and worthy of all the glory God receives, He chose to humble Himself by taking on human flesh. He left His glorious state and came in the likeness of sinful flesh (Rom. 8:3), and He experienced a humiliating death on a cross (Phil. 2:6-8) by becoming sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21).

When I was a child growing up in a wonderful Southern Baptist Church, we would regularly host missionaries on Sunday nights, inviting them to tell our congregation about how the gospel was being shared around the world. Our pastor loved to encourage those of us in the audience to listen to the call of God on our own lives, considering His missional call to each of us.

And as a 5-year-old girl, I remember praying, "Lord, I don't want to go to Africa."

I might laugh at that little girl now, but I haven't really changed all that much. I know what some people have endured for the sake of the gospel, and I don't know that I'm that brave. I don't know that I have the courage to step out in faith as others have. On the other hand, I've found myself in a situation that was out of my control. Only later did I realize that it was God's will for me to be in that hard position and see that His hand was guiding me every step of the way.

Because of that, I wonder if David was hesitant about Saul's invitation. I can imagine him saying, "Dad, I don't want to go play the lyre for King Saul. They say he's got an evil spirit." But Scripture just says that Jesse sent his son and David came to Saul. We get the impression that saying no to Saul was not even an option. But we love that though David was initially invited because of his musical acumen, he was eventually enlisted in full-time service as the king's armor-bearer. This lets us know that David didn't just show up and halfheartedly play the lyre, waiting for his release. He did a great job, revealing that he was a person who could be a trustworthy and helpful servant and friend.

What "Lord, I don't want to . . ." statement marks your current season? What might happen if you said yes in faith?

GROUP

NOTES

VOICES from CHURCH HISTORY

"You have trusted Him in a few things, and He has not failed you. Trust Him now for everything, and see if He does not do for you exceeding abundantly, above all that you could ever have asked or even thought, not according to your power or capacity, but according to His own mighty power, working in you all the good pleasure of His most blessed will."²

-Hannah Whitall Smith
(1832-1911)

POINT 1: The future king is chosen by the Lord (1 Sam. 16:1-10).

God once again called Samuel to anoint a king He had chosen. Though Samuel was heartbroken and fearful, he _____ and _____.

God's main concern for leadership is a person's _____, not outward _____.
Therefore, like Samuel, we need to follow God's lead.

? What should we expect to see in the leaders in the church?

POINT 2: The future king is anointed by the prophet (1 Sam. 16:11-13).

Even if no one realized it, God was already _____ David to be king. David's own family overlooked him, but he was the Lord's _____.

? What does this scenario teach us about the ways God works?

Samuel's _____ and the Spirit's _____ made it very clear David would be the next king of Israel. Once again, God equips His people to fulfill what He has called them to do.

? How has the Holy Spirit equipped you to obey and fulfill the gospel mission in the world?

POINT 3: The future king is a servant to the king (1 Sam. 16:14-17, 21-23).

Returning to Saul, we find the rejected king now _____ from a tormenting spirit from

_____. The hope was music would help the king, and his comfort came from an anointed, Spirit-filled, humble servant.

ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE #55: CHRIST'S HUMILIATION

Although God the Son is equal with God and worthy of all the glory God receives, He chose to humble Himself by taking on human _____. He left His glorious state and came in the likeness of sinful flesh (Rom. 8:3), and He experienced a humiliating _____ on a cross (Phil. 2:6-8) by becoming sin for us so that in Him _____ might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21).



What are some ways believers can exhibit Christ's humility?

MY RESPONSE

Because our salvation came through the humble service of King Jesus, we live humbly before all people, eager to serve them so that they might come to repent of their sin and trust in Christ.

- **HEAD:** In what ways am I out of balance in my God-ordained confidence and my Christ-led sacrifice?
- **HEART:** How has your attitude toward God's calling on your life affected your view on your position of service?
- **HANDS:** What is God's calling for your life in this season? How are you fulfilling His path for you?

NOTES

VOICES from CHURCH HISTORY

"Mould us, O God, into forms of beauty and usefulness by the wheel of Thy providence, and by the touch of Thy hand. Fulfill Thine ideal, and conform us to the image of Thy Son. AMEN."³

-F. B. Meyer (1847-1929)