

Session 2: David's Foundational Revelation of God (1 Samuel 16)

I. OUR PRIMARY FOCUS IN THIS CLASS

- A. David's Revelation of God
- B. David's Heart Responses to the Changing Landscape of Life Circumstances
- C. David's Vision to Establish Day and Night Worship

II. THE TRANSITION BETWEEN SAUL AND DAVID

- A. We're beginning this class in chapter 16 of 1 Samuel where David is first mentioned. But context is important to understand. Chapters 9–15 detail the career of King Saul. The backdrop to the story of the life of David is the transition of Kingship from Saul to David. This was a 20 year process and was extremely messy. It's important to understand Saul and his role in the narrative to understand David.
- B. Saul was anointed King of Israel not because God had "sought" him out and found him to be "after his heart" but because he was the King the nation deserved. The Lord was very clear that Saul being anointed as King was an act of judgment (1 Samuel 8:22; Hosea 13:10–11).
- C. During the years of the reign of Saul, the Lord's heart was being moved by an insignificant young shepherd boy in the wilderness. Some years before Samuel would ever meet him the Lord was speaking about His delight in young David.
- D. Saul was rejected because of two separate occasions of disobedience and sin; one in chapter 13 and the other in chapter 15. In both cases Samuel prophesied of the demise of Saul's dynasty and of the "man after God's heart" who would replace him.

"But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart... (1 Sam 13:14)

27 As Samuel turned to go away, Saul seized the skirt of his robe, and it tore. 28 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 15:27–28)

III. AN OUTLINE OF 1 SAMUEL 16

- A. Samuel visits David's family (16:1–11)
 - 1 Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided 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 "Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you."

- 4 So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"
- 5 And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice.
- 6 So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD'S anointed is before Him."
- 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."
- 8 So 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 Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."
- 11 And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here."
- B. David chosen by God (16:12–13)
- 12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!"
- 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.
- C. Rejected Saul is oppressed (16:14–18)
- 14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.
- 15 And Saul's servants said to him, "Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you.
- 16 "Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp; and it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well."
- 17 So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me."
- 18 Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him."
- D. Anointed David brings refreshing (16:19–23)
- 19 Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep."
- 20 And Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by his son David to Saul.
- 21 So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer.
- 22 Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight."
- 23 And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.

IV. FOUR FOUNDATIONAL REALITIES THAT DAVID DREW FROM HIS ENCOUNTER WITH THE LORD AT BETHLEHEM

At Bethlehem David had a power encounter with God. In 16:13 it says that "the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David" (ESV). This was the most significant day in David's life to date. It was this encounter that formed David's understanding of God and of himself in God's eyes. There are four primary realities that David would have been impacted by as a result of this encounter.

- A. The Lord Views Rebellion and Immaturity Differently – Rebellion is a defiant heart that says "No" and Immaturity is a sincere heart that says "Yes" but struggles. One is concerned with what people think and one is concerned about what God thinks.

22 And Samuel said, "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey [inward delight in the commands of God] is better than sacrifice [an external fulfillment of the commands of God without inward delight], and to listen than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king." (1 Samuel 15:22–23)

1. Saul was rejected as King because of "rebellion." But to compare Saul's moral failures next to David's one is confronted with the difficult reality that David had a longer and more abominable list. Many commentators don't know how to explain this. How was the "man after God's heart" also the man of greater sin and failure?
 2. David understood that the Lord doesn't see rebellion and immaturity the same way. In God's eyes, Saul's sin was the fruit of a rebellious heart whereas David's was the fruit of an immature heart. This would become the primary theological reality that would undergird David's life in God through the decades.
 3. The difference between the heart of Saul and the heart of David is that in the wake of sin Saul repented only to maintain public respect whereas David repented because it grieved him that He grieved the heart of the Lord.
 4. The fundamental difference between these two men was that one had a "yes" in his spirit and the other had a "no." David's "yes" was often crippled by his immaturity and Saul's "no" was clothed in fraudulent religious zeal and false humility.
- B. The Lord Evaluates Us Based on the Desires of Our Hearts Not Our Achievements – David had nothing to offer the Lord as an insignificant 16/17 year old; but it was the inner movements of his heart that won the attention of the Lord.
1. Man Looks At Outward Achievements as a Constant Mode of Evaluation
 2. The Lord Doesn't Evaluate The Way The Human Heart Evaluates:
 - a. If human heart evaluates as good, it results in arrogance.
 - b. If human heart evaluates as bad, it results in shame.
 3. New Focus In Evaluating Life. God Defines Us By Heart Intentions:
 - a. He sees our heart motives (1 Cor. 4:5)
 - b. He sees our inner qualities (Ps. 29:2)
 4. God Is Calling Forth Virtues In Us That Is Only Budding. (Song of Songs 4:1–5)
 5. The Spirit Of Accusation Is What Chokes Our Hearts
- C. The Lord Calls Us to Himself for His Own Pleasure
1. This wasn't about the Lord seeking to fill a position. He liked David and enjoyed his heart. There is a clear contrast between the anointing of Saul and David as King:

And the LORD said to Samuel, "Obey their voice and make them a king." (1 Samuel 8:22)
 2. God's desire- "I sought for a man for Me."

"But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart... (1 Sam 13:14)
 3. The Lord took pleasure in David because David had a longing for obedience

So Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you." (1 Sam 15:28)
 4. Divine Passion- "I have set him apart for Myself"

Now the LORD said to Samuel, ...For I have provided Myself a king among his sons." (1 Sam 16:1)

So David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for the sake of His people Israel. (2 Sam 5:12)

But know that the LORD has set apart for Himself him who is godly... (Psa 4:3)

5. David had an unusual revelation about who he was in the eyes of the Lord:

a. As God's Beloved

That Your beloved may be delivered...hear me. (Ps 60:5)

b. As the apple of God's eye "

Keep me as the apple of Your eye (Ps 17:8)

c. As one God delighted in

He delivered me because He delighted in me. (Ps. 18:19)

d. As one treated with divine gentleness

Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great. (Ps. 18:35)

e. Seeing the saints as excellent to God affected David's view of them personally.

As for the saints..."they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight." (Ps. 16:3)

D. The Lord Chooses People that People Wouldn't Choose – There is a wealth of Biblical evidence that points to the fact that though David was a national icon who was the object of national affection, his family and close friends mistreated him. This mistreatment was the fruit of their offense towards God in His sovereign selection of a young man they saw as unqualified. The New Testament theology of God's delight in the election of that which the world sees as worthless, undeserving and unqualified is something to contemplate (see 1 Corinthians 1:18–31).

1. David was rejected by his family (16:11)

2. David was keeping the sheep when the prophet Samuel came for dinner

3. David is running menial family errands after he is anointed as King (17:15–19)

4. Eliab publicly rejects, rebukes and ridicules David (17:28)

5. David spoke often about how people rejected him:

For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me in. (Psalm 27:10)

Because of all my adversaries [who slander and lie about me] I have become a reproach, especially to my neighbors, and an object of fear to my friends and acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me. I have been forgotten like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel. For I hear the whispering of many... (Psalm 31:11–13)

For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that dishonor has covered my face. I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's sons. (Psalm 69:7–8)