

# The Life of David - 1 Samuel 16:1-13

**The Joy Of the Lord Is Your Strength!**

Hardly anything beats a "radiant face"

## INTRO:

1. Good morning friends!

As we jump into today's text - I want you to consider the 3 people in the text. We are introduced to Saul, Samuel, and David. I read a scholar who identified them in 3 categories that I found to be helpful - and it will guide us as we dig in...

### 1. SAUL — YESTERDAY'S MAN

1. Saul is still sitting on the throne, but God has already rejected him as king.
2. That is a terrifying possibility:
- 3. You can still have the position after you've lost the presence.**
4. Saul represents **yesterday's man**.
5. Yesterday's man is someone who once followed God, once obeyed God, once experienced God's blessing—but is no longer living surrendered to Him.
6. Saul still has the title. He still has the palace. He still has the crown.
7. But something has changed on the inside.
8. Yesterday's man lives on what God **did** instead of what God is **doing**.
9. And one of the dangers of the Christian life is becoming so comfortable talking about what Jesus did in our past that we stop asking what Jesus wants from us today.

### 2. SAMUEL — TODAY'S MAN

1. Samuel is grieving.
2. He loved Saul. He invested in Saul. He believed in Saul.
3. And now God tells Samuel: "How long will you grieve over Saul?"
4. There is a time to grieve what was.
5. But eventually God says:
- 6. "Get up. I still have something for you to do."**
7. Samuel represents **today's man**.
8. Today's man is willing to obey God today—even when obedience is difficult, uncomfortable, confusing, or costly.
9. He doesn't have to understand everything.
10. He simply has to take the next step.

### 3. DAVID — TOMORROW'S MAN

1. Then there is David.
2. David isn't in the palace.
3. He isn't in the meeting.
4. He isn't even invited to the sacrifice.

5. He is somewhere out in a field watching sheep.
6. Nobody is looking at David.
- 7. Except God.**
8. David represents **tomorrow's man**.
9. God is preparing him for something David cannot yet see.
10. Before David ever wears a crown, God is developing his character.
11. Before the public victory comes the private preparation.
12. Before Goliath comes the sheep. Before the throne comes the field. Before anybody knows David's name, God knows exactly where David is.
- 13. Never despise the season when God is preparing you in obscurity.**

#### TEXT:

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."

1. .God tells Samuel: "Fill your horn with oil, and go."
2. Samuel is grieving.
3. Samuel is disappointed.
4. Samuel probably has questions.
5. And God sends him anyway.
6. Notice what God does **not** say:
7. "Samuel, whenever you feel better..."
8. "When you've completely processed this..."
9. "When you finally feel confident..."
10. God says:

#### **11. Fill your horn and go.**

12. There are moments when God ministers to us in our grief.
13. And there are moments when God calls us to **move in spite of our grief**.

#### **14. PRINCIPLE: God often sends you on mission before you feel ready for the mission.**

15. We tend to think:
16. "When I feel confident, I'll obey."
17. "When I feel qualified, I'll step up."
18. "When I'm not afraid anymore, I'll go."
19. But biblical courage isn't the absence of fear.
- 20. Courage is obedience in the presence of fear.**
21. Maybe somebody needs to stop waiting to feel ready.
22. Fill your horn.
23. And go.

<sup>2</sup> 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.' <sup>3</sup> 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." <sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem.

1. Samuel responds: "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me."
  2. That is a legitimate concern!
  3. Samuel isn't imagining the danger.
  4. Saul is unstable, powerful, and dangerous.
  5. But God does something interesting.
  6. He doesn't give Samuel the entire plan.
  7. He gives him **the next step**.
  8. Take a heifer. Go to Bethlehem. Invite Jesse. I'll show you what to do next.
  9. **PRINCIPLE: God's direction is usually a flashlight, not a floodlight.**
  10. A floodlight shows you everything.
  11. A flashlight shows you enough to take the next step.
  12. We want God to say:
  13. "Here is exactly what will happen over the next five years. Here are all the obstacles. Here is how everything will work out. Here is why I'm doing it."
  14. And God often says:
  15. **"Here's your next step. Trust Me."**
  16. Why?
  17. Because if God showed us everything, we wouldn't need faith.
- "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." — Psalm 119:105
1. A lamp gives you enough light **to keep walking**.
  2. And then I love the simplicity of verse 4: "Samuel did what the LORD commanded."
  3. That's it.
  4. God spoke.
  5. Samuel obeyed.
  6. DELAYED OBEDIENCE IS DISOBEDIENCE.
  7. We can spend so much time "praying about" something God has already made clear.
  8. If God has told you to forgive—obey.
  9. If God has told you to confess—obey.
  10. If God has told you to serve—obey.
  11. If God has told you to reconcile—obey.
  12. If God has told you to take the next step—obey.
  13. **You don't need to know everything when you know the One who does.**

The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him." <sup>7</sup> 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 arrives in Bethlehem.
2. Jesse brings out Eliab.
3. And Samuel immediately thinks: "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him."
4. Why?
5. Because Eliab **looks like a king**.
6. And apparently Samuel still hasn't learned his lesson.
7. Because who else looked like a king?
- 8. Saul.**
9. Saul was tall. Saul was impressive. Saul looked the part.
10. Samuel is about to make the same mistake again.
11. But God stops him: "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature..."
12. And then comes one of the defining verses of David's life: "For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

1. PRINCIPLE: **People look at what is impressive. God looks at what is inside.**
- 2. THIS IS BOTH COMFORTING AND TERRIFYING...**
3. We live in a world obsessed with appearance.
4. Followers. Platforms. Clothes. Titles. Success. Image. Influence.
5. We curate what everyone else sees.
6. But God sees what nobody else sees.
7. God sees your motives.
8. God sees your integrity.
9. God sees what happens when nobody is watching.
10. God sees your heart.
11. And before God puts David on a throne, He is interested in the kind of man who will sit on it.
- 12. God is far more interested in developing your character than displaying your talent.**
13. Because talent may get you into a room.
14. But character determines what you do when you get there.

<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>10</sup> And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." <sup>11</sup> Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest,<sup>[a]</sup> 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." <sup>12</sup> 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." <sup>13</sup> 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.

1. Jesse starts bringing sons before Samuel.
2. Abinadab.
3. No.

4. Shammah.
5. No.
6. Seven sons pass before Samuel. - all no...
7. Finally Samuel asks: "Are all your sons here?"
8. And Jesse essentially says: "Well...there is one more."
9. "The youngest."
10. "And he's keeping the sheep."
11. David wasn't even invited.
12. His own father apparently doesn't consider him a legitimate possibility.
13. But here is something we will see throughout David's story:
14. PEOPLE MAY OVERLOOK YOU WITHOUT GOD OVERLOOKING YOU.
15. David is obscure.
16. David is young.
17. David is out in a field.
18. David doesn't have the résumé.
19. David doesn't have the experience.
20. David doesn't have the position.
21. But David has the one thing that matters:
- 22. God has chosen him.**
23. And God has a long history of using people everyone else overlooks.
24. God loves taking ordinary, obscure, overlooked people and using them for extraordinary purposes.
25. So don't despise the field.
26. Don't despise obscurity.
27. Don't despise small assignments.
28. Don't assume that because nobody sees what you're doing, nothing important is happening.

**29. God does some of His greatest preparation in places nobody else is watching.**

SIDE NOTE — JESSE AND FATHERHOOD

1. And fathers, there is a small but important picture here.
2. Jesse doesn't exactly get Father of the Year.
3. When Samuel says, "Bring me your sons," Jesse apparently doesn't even think David needs to be in the room.
4. Think about that.
5. Your son is so far down your list that when the prophet asks to see **all your sons**, you leave him in the field.
6. Jesse gives us something of a **counter-vision of fatherhood**.
7. And compare that with the Father's words over Jesus: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."
8. And when does the Father say it?
- 9. Before Jesus' public ministry.**
10. Before the miracles. Before the crowds. Before the sermons. Before the cross.
11. The Father doesn't say, "Perform, and then I'll tell you I'm proud of you."
12. He establishes identity before accomplishment.

13. Dads, our children should not have to spend their lives wondering whether their father delights in them.
14. Tell them.
15. Show them.
16. Let them know:
- 17. "You are my son. You are my daughter. I love you. I delight in you."**
18. And then - back to David.
19. Because even though his earthly father may have overlooked him, **his heavenly Father knew exactly where to find him.**

**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.

1. David walks into the room.
2. And God says: "Arise, anoint him, for this is he."
3. Samuel pours the oil over David.
4. And Scripture says: "The Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward."
5. David has been chosen.
6. David has been anointed.
7. David is going to be king.
8. So what happens next?
9. Does he move into the palace?
10. Does Samuel hand him a crown?
11. Does Israel hold a coronation?
12. No.

**13. David goes back to being David.**

14. The anointing happens long before the appointing.
15. The calling comes long before the crown.
16. There will be years between this moment and the throne.
17. And those years are not wasted years.
18. They are **preparation years.**
19. God is going to use sheep.
20. God is going to use Goliath.
21. God is going to use Saul.
22. God is going to use Jonathan.
23. God is going to use caves.
24. God is going to use victories.
25. God is going to use failures.
26. God will use all of it to form the man who will one day become king.
27. PRINCIPLE: **God prepares the person before He fulfills the promise.**

CONCLUSION:

1. At the beginning of David's story, we meet three men.
- 2. Saul — yesterday's man.**
3. He experienced God in the past, but he is no longer walking faithfully with God today.
- 4. Samuel — today's man.**
5. He doesn't understand everything God is doing, but when God says go, Samuel goes.
- 6. David — tomorrow's man.**
7. He doesn't know what God has planned. He is simply being faithful where God has placed him while God prepares him for what is coming.
8. So maybe the question isn't:
- 9. "What is God going to do with my life?"**
10. Maybe the better question is:
- 11. "Am I being faithful with what God has put in front of me today?"**
12. Because you don't become tomorrow's man tomorrow.
- 13. You become tomorrow's man by being faithful today.**
14. So fill your horn.
15. Take the next step.
16. Trust God when you cannot see the whole road.
17. Care more about your heart than your image.
18. Be faithful when nobody is watching.
19. And don't despise the field.
20. Because you never know what God may be preparing you for.
- 21. The field you think is insignificant may be the very place God is preparing you for your future.**
22. And throughout the life of David, we're going to watch God take a forgotten shepherd boy from the fields of Bethlehem and form him into a man after His own heart.
23. The story begins here:
- 24. Nobody else was looking for David.**
- 25. But God was.**

THE GOSPEL: Jesus Christ is the ultimate hope for every person. Though we are all sinful and our sin separates us from God, God made a way for us to be in right relationship with him again. That way is Jesus. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for our sins. God promises that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ will be saved. This is the good news of the Bible.

COMMUNION: 1 Corinthians 11

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, broke it, and said, <sup>[b]</sup> "This is my body, which is <sup>[c]</sup> for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

<sup>25</sup> In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

"May the Lord bless you and protect you;  
may the Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
may the Lord look with favor on you<sup>[b]</sup>  
and give you peace."