

1 Samuel 16

Good morning and welcome to Calvary Chapel thank you so much for joining us. We're continuing our verse-by-verse study through the book of first Samuel, so would you please turn in your bibles with me to first Samuel chapter 16.

Last time in our study we saw how king Saul had completely disobeyed God, and was even willing to kill his own son to save face. God then declared to Saul, through the prophet Samuel, that Saul would lose his throne. There will be a new king of Israel, although not for several years.

In chapter 16 we are for the first time introduced to a young shepherd boy named David. The name David means "Beloved" or "Loved One."

The title of this morning's message is All about worship

Let's pray.

Many of you, if not most all of you, know how the throne of Israel will unfold. Saul will die a tragic death, and a man named David will become Israel's greatest king. But how did a shepherd boy go from rasslin' sheep to leading a nation? Chapter 16 shows us how God began to orchestrate all the events.

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." God has rejected Saul, and is going to use Samuel as the tool to select Saul's future replacement.

2 And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." Saul had become a reckless, egotistical madman...

But 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?” Why would they be afraid of Samuel- remember he’s really old at this time? Do you recall what Samuel had just done with the Amalekite king Agag- chapter 15 tells the story how he hacked Agag into pieces.

5-6

5 And he said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” Then he consecrated 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!” Samuel took one look at Jesse’s oldest son, his name is Eliab – and thought, “This has got to be God’s choice for the next king of Israel.

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees;[fn] for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” God’s chief concern with people has little to do with that person’s outward appearance.

Often times God uses people who don’t fit the mold – or don’t look the part - just to remind us His qualifications and requirements are different from our own. We use our eyes and ears and even noses to shape our opinions of others. But God goes deeper than skin, He looks at the heart.

So, God tells Samuel-no Eliab isn't the one...

8-10

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." Jesse parades his 7 sons before Samuel, but none of them are God's pick. It wasn't that these sons of Jesse were bad guys, but they weren't God's choice for the special work He had. So now Samuel's confused...

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^[fn] till he comes here."

The youngest is of course, David. Notice how little David's family thought of him!

First, his father didn't even mention David by name here. Second, poor David wasn't even invited to the sacrificial feast. Third, David was only called to come because Samuel insisted on it.

Clearly David was nobody's first pick!

Have you noticed that God often chooses unlikely people to do His work? He does this so that everyone knows the work is God's doing and not the persons!

Verse 11 tells us that David was one who kept the sheep. This is a what a shepherd does. PSALM 23 BOOK

Now as you read the book of Psalms, you'll notice that 73 of the 150 psalms are specifically authored by David. See keeping the

sheep meant you had time to think. David spent a lot of time looking over the sheep and looking at the glory of God's creation.

David's years keeping the sheep were not wasted time; rather these days were his training days. David became a great man and a great king over Israel because he never lost his shepherd's heart. **Psalm 78:70 He also chose David His servant,**

And took him from the sheepfolds;

71 From following the ewes that had young He brought him,

To shepherd Jacob His people,

And Israel His inheritance.

72 So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart,

And guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.

Nothing goes to waste if we allow God to use it.

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!" By all outward appearances David's seven brothers seemed to be a better fit to be Israel's next king. But however unlikely as he was, David was God's choice.

God described what made David special in **1 Samuel 13:14: "But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."**

What made David the one, was that he was a man after God's own heart. Where did David get this heart? Obviously, from time spent with the LORD.

That's one of the beautiful things about spending time with God. Our heart begins to transform as we spend time in His word, our prayers begin to change to seeking His will to be done more than our will to be done.

To be used greatly by God we don't need to have some special ability, rather all we need to have is availability. We don't need status, influence, or power to be people after God's own heart.

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. No one can say for sure, but from the actions of David, Jesse, and David's brothers, we can assume that only God and Samuel knew exactly what this anointing meant here.

It's likely that everyone thought that Samuel was honoring David for an unnamed reason. Probably no one even dared to think this was a divine royal anointing.

Even though Samuel anoints David in front of David's family, David will eventually be anointed three times. The first time is here. The second time is in 2 Samuel 2:4, when he is anointed over the tribe of Judah. The third time is in 2 Samuel 5, when he is anointed as king over all Israel.

You may say great-why do I care?

Sometimes a person will think they're anointed for ministry. Maybe even their family agrees, but they'll wonder why everyone else doesn't see it. Most likely it's because like David, it's not the proper time to be used in that way.

There is an unfolding of God's plan for each and every one of us, and as much as we'd like to, it can't be rushed.

David was an incredible man—a man after God’s own heart, unlike anyone the world had ever seen—yet it took many years before his anointing was recognized by others. David waited patiently. We also have to do the same. **Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.**

Now there are 2 other important things to notice in verse 13. 1st, the HS coming upon David. The oil on the head was an outward sign of God’s approval. The real anointing happened when the Holy Spirit came upon David.

Finally, look at the end of verse 13-Samuel, the prophet, the spiritual leader of the nation goes back home after anointing David as the future king of Israel.

Samuel didn’t begin a “Let’s get David on the throne” political party, nor did Samuel begin to undermine Saul’s leadership, looking for a way to establish David as king.

Instead, Samuel allowed the Lord to work in His timing.

Over the next year or so in our studies we’ll see that David will become one of the greatest men of the Bible, mentioned more than 1,000 times in the pages of Scripture. In fact, David is mentioned more than Abraham, more than Moses, more than any mere man in the New Testament.

That’s more than a bit of trivia, it’s important to realize that it’s no accident that Jesus wasn’t known as the “Son of Abraham” or the “Follower of Moses,” but as the Son of David.

So now, almost like a movie, the focus pans out and away from David, and onto what is taking place in the heart of King Saul.

14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.

Verse 14 is a heavily debated verse. If God is all-good, why did He send a distressing spirit upon Saul?

It's important to note that this evil spirit that troubled Saul was only temporary. The last verse notes that the evil spirit came on multiple occasions to bother Saul, which means it departed from him.

We read back in chapter 10 that Saul had the Spirit of the LORD upon him at one time. But as his pride grew, so did Saul's rebellion against God. Evidently, he resisted God so much that God finally gave Saul what he wanted.

But as is always the case when someone continuously refuses God, Saul never realized the full price he was going to pay in his rebellion. Saul thought he would be freer to do his own things his way, he didn't realize he would be subject to misery.

Today, Saul would probably be diagnosed as mentally ill. Yet his problem was spiritual in nature, not mental or psychological.

There are many people in mental hospitals today that are really suffering from spiritual problems. Obviously not every case of mental distress is spiritual because chemical imbalances and physiological problems are also real in this fallen world. Yet there are certainly some that need liberation from a distressing spirit and may never find it in our modern mental health system.

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." Essentially, Saul's servants advise him to find a worship leader.

Sometimes we forget that God created music, and we know that music has the ability to touch all of us in very special ways. Music can be used for great good or for great evil, because it so powerfully communicates to our inner being.

SHOW PIC This isn't one of the big harps you might find in an orchestra. A harp is a lyre, the ancient version of the guitar.

CLOSE PIC

17 So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me." Now we know that the heart of the person leading worship is absolutely critical. The heart matters, but when it comes to worship, so does technical ability.

Of course, this doesn't mean that a person must be a musical genius before God can use them. But it does mean that they can't have an unconcerned, lazy, "I don't really need to practice" attitude regarding worship. Skillful in playing reflects an attitude just as much as it reflects an ability.

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." How did this guy know that David was a mighty man of valor and a man of war? We're not told, but I believe word got around about David killing a lion and a bear, we'll study that when we get to chapter 17 in a few weeks when we study David and Goliath.

Notice David needed the character of a warrior to effectively lead Saul in worship and to minister to him in music. See worship ministry is a constant battleground.

Like any ministry, conflicts and contentions can happen in worship ministry, and if someone isn't equipped and ready for the spiritual

warfare that takes place, they themselves will likely get hurt and probably even wound others. Worship ministry is a battleground.

It's fascinating, what society applauds in a good musician, or a good artist goes against true worship ministry. Our society celebrates a musician's desire for the spotlight, and prominence, and attention. But that's not to be the heart of a worship leader for God.

We are incredibly blessed here in having Jim Hust as our worship leader, and his daughter Amanda and my wife Kim as folks who lead us in worship yet don't seek to have the spotlight on themselves.

In fact, we are richly blessed as a fellowship because no one on our worship team has ever exhibited a heart to draw the focus to them. They are not only skilled musicians, but humble in heart. Thank you for all you do!

The end of verse 18 describes the most important attribute for those who lead us in worship: The Lord is with him.

This means that they are called by God and submitted to God.

So in verse 18 Saul's servants evidently heard of David, they recommend David...

19 Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep." Since this happened after Samuel anointed David, this means David simply returned to the sheep after his anointing. As the next king of Israel, David didn't have to manipulate his way into the palace or into Saul's favor. God would take care of the details.

20-21

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.

Saul took to young David immediately and gave him the important and trusted position of armorbearer. Remember being an armor bearer was much more than just carrying weapons, an armor bearer was the chief assistant in battle. A soldier's life often depended on the courage and faithfulness of his armorbearer, and king Saul, knew David was worthy of this position.

So think about what's just happened. David is moved from the outhouse to the penthouse. From the fields, to the presence of the king.

SHOW PIC Young David is moving on up! **CLOSE PIC**

This was an important time in David's life and became basic training for God's destiny for him. For the first time David lived in a royal court and began to learn the customs and manners he needed to know to be a good king later in life.

22-23

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. We don't usually think of worship and spiritual warfare as going together, but they do. See praising God reminds Satan of his inferiority and the folly of his rebellion. When we glorify God, Satan runs!

But there's often a challenge in worshipping God isn't there! Many times our flesh doesn't like it because-it's recognizing our own inferiority.

SHOW PIC John Ashcroft was a United States Senator from Missouri and the committed follower of Jesus Christ. Senator Ashcroft told about the day he was sworn into the Senate. He really wanted to be prayed into his new position that day, so he asked about 25 family members and close friends to join him in a room in the Capitol for a time of prayer before his inauguration into the Senate. Great idea! Senator Ashcroft asked his loved ones to stand in a circle around him in a time of dedicatory prayer.

The senator's father remained seated in a big chair because he had a serious heart condition. But as everyone stood in that prayer circle, Senator Ashcroft glanced over at his dad, only to see him trying to get up out of that big chair. He said, "Dad, you don't have to struggle to stand." To which his father replied, "Oh, I'm not struggling to stand, John. I'm struggling to kneel."

CLOSE PIC

Aren't we all?

Hey, it's easy to sing the lyrics on the screen while our minds drift off elsewhere. But Jesus tells us where 2 or more are gathered He's in our midst! Folks we're not just singing songs about Jesus, we're singing songs to Jesus when we worship!

Remember the worship time we have isn't the warmup for the sermon! I would encourage you to make sure when you're coming for church, get here early, get your coffee, hang up your coat, so as the worship team leads us we truly have our hearts and minds focused upon the Lord. It's hard to kneel in our hearts to the Lord when our focus is elsewhere.

Let's read verse 23 one more time

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.

When Saul was spiritually attacked, David was called in to praise the Lord, and as he did, Saul was refreshed.

On occasion an emotional cloud will roll in on me like a sudden summer storm. I've learned to recognize such moods as spiritual attacks, and a sure cure against them is to stop what I'm doing, and spend some time worshipping the Lord. It can be as simple as praising God I have 10 fingers, and 10 toes, I have my vision, I praise Him that He loves me. Folks praise is powerful!

Hebrews 13:15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

Well this morning before we close in worship we have some folks who want to demonstrate their allegiance to Jesus by coming forth publicly to be baptized!

The idea of a baptized believer is that they've gone public in declaring that they are committed to Jesus Christ as their Lord and savior.

To be clear Baptism isn't a requirement of salvation, but being baptized demonstrates obedience, it shows allegiance, baptism shows our love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Baptism is an outward sign of inward faith, signifying that you've buried all the guilt, all the sin, all the shame of the old life prior to Christ. Colossians 2 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

What do you do with a dead body-you bury it. And that's why we immerse the body during a baptism. The immersion under water symbolizes the death of our old sinful nature.

And then coming up out of the water, you rise in the newness of life in Jesus as you identify with His resurrection.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Do you need to be made new in Christ this morning?

I want to encourage you, even if you haven't signed up to be baptized, we have extra clothes here if the Lord has put it on your heart to be baptized today