

# Rise and Reign: God's Chosen King 1 Samuel 16-17

*Ben Rodriguez's Teaching Notes*

- **1 Samuel 16:7 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; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."**
- We are going to be talking about the life of David, one of the most famous heroes of the Bible. A lot of us know David as this great giant slayer, king, and worshipper, and he was, but what made David special wasn't his accomplishments, but his character. David would not have been Israel's choice for a king, a young teenager who's dad had him working as a shepherd. But God saw in David character traits that made him the man after God's own heart.
- And if we want to serve God like David did, if we want to be men and women after God's own heart, we need to both desire and have these character traits, so what are they? Well the answer is in 1 Samuel 16-17
- Before we look at that let me give you some background:
  - The nation of Israel had been under temporary leaders known as judges, who were raised up during times of crisis, the last of which was Samuel.
  - It was during Samuel's leading that the nation asked for a king like everyone else. Though Samuel tried convincing them it was a bad idea, they insisted, so God answered them and gave them the king they requested, Saul, a tall good looking Israelite.
  - Unfortunately though Saul outwardly looked like an ideal king, he was not so inwardly. He disobeyed God's commands and even tried doing the work of a priest, which was forbidden. This led to Saul's rejection as king.
  - God then told Samuel that He had already someone to replace Saul. Though Saul was the people's choice, this man would be God's choice, a man after God's own heart.
- So this is where we find ourselves, in chapter 16 and 17. The Lord has told Samuel to go to Bethlehem to the family of Jesse, and find the next king of the nation.
- So what happens? A lot of us know the story, Samuel gets there and David's seven older brothers come in, while David is left in the field to take care of the sheep. Then Samuel makes the same mistake that the people made with Saul, he saw these strong, GQ models and said, "One of these guys is it!" This brings us to the first of these character qualities that made David someone whom God could use.

- **David had the right heart: 16:7 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; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”**
  - The Lord corrected Samuel and told him that He doesn't look at what's outward, but what's inward.
  - A lot of people look great outwardly, while been rotten inwardly. This was the problem with the Pharisees in Jesus' time no? Outwardly, no one acted, looked, or seemed holier than them, yet Jesus called them white washed tombs.
  - Just because someone carries a Bible, can quote scriptures, and says an occasional prayer doesn't mean their heart is right.
  - You can meet people who don't seem the right fit outwardly, but in their hearts they are full of passion and zeal. They want to read, study and obey God's word. They seek the Lord by placing His kingdom first like it says in Matthew 6, and trusting Him to provide.
  - **Nothing stands the test like solid character. You can handle the blast (of adversity) like a steer in a blizzard. The ice may form on your horns, but you keep standing against the wind and the howling, raging storm because Christ is at work in your spirit. Character will always win the day. As Horace Greeley wrote: “Fame is a vapor, popularity an accident, riches take wing, and only character endures.” - Charles Swindoll**
  - God doesn't choose Leaders based on physical attributes, but inward character. We do the opposite. It is a heart that is given over to passion before God, wanting to obey His word, and see Him work, that makes them usable. That's the type of man David was.
    - *2 Chronicles 16:9 For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.*
  
- **David was Spirit Filled: 16:13 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.**
  - Once Samuel asked if Jesse had another son, he admitted he had left his youngest son in the field. His dad didn't seem to have much faith in him, but when David walked in, the Lord told Samuel “That's my man”.
  - Samuel anointed David with oil, and it says that the Spirit Of God came upon David from that day forward. This was the secret of David's success.
  - Any man or woman who seeks to be used by God needs to realize that they can't succeed in their own power, wisdom, or ability. Jesus told us that “without Him, we can do nothing.” And that's a reality we don't like to admit. But the Bible tells us so. David succeeded and was used because he lived out Zechariah 4:6
    - *Zechariah 4:6 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts.*

- This was a lesson the disciples had to learn. Jesus told them in Acts 1:8
    - *Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*
  - why did He say that? Because unless God's Servant is empowered by God's Spirit, he cannot do God's work.
  - So the second characteristic that made David a man after God's heart was he was filled with God's Spirit.
- **David was a man of humility: [16:18-21](#)** *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." 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 armor bearer.*
    - David had been told he would be king. He had been anointed and filled, yet he didn't let it go to his head. When he was told to come and serve as Saul's personal musician, he didn't get all high and mighty, he didn't tell Saul to take a hike, instead he humbly began to serve in the court.
    - Humility is one of the hardest character qualities to have, because it's so fragile. One moment you have it, the next you don't. It's like walking on eggshells.
    - **Catch [a man] at the moment when he is really poor in spirit and smuggle into his mind the gratifying reflection, "By jove! I'm being humble," and almost immediately pride—pride—pride at his own humility—will appear. - C. S. Lewis**
    - Let me go through this quick, because we can spend all night here, and I'm tempted to, because it's so relevant for us. Humility is having an honest view of yourself. It is not placing yourself lower, or bringing yourself higher.
    - A pro basketball player who says he's horrible at basketball isn't been humble, he's exercising false humility. If he was truly humble, he'd say "well yeah I am pretty good, I play in the pro league". He's not lying, but been honest.
    - People who have a habit of always putting themselves down, are often just as arrogant and prideful as those who say they are great at everything. It is simply pride manifested in a different way.
    - If you want God to be able to use you, you need to be a person of humility, someone who has an honest opinion of their strengths and weaknesses.
    - *John Wooden, one of the most famous basketball coaches ever heard of, led his UCLA Bruins to a national championship ten out of twelve years. One time when he called on an acquaintance Wooden said, "Hello. My name is John Wooden." He said, "I understand your little school needs a coach, and I have a man in mind I would like to recommend." He said, "I've had a couple of years*

coaching basketball and I thought you might like to take a recommendation I have." Though he could have written the book on it, he didn't assume the man would know his voice or be impressed with his name. That is what true humility is like. He didn't say he was a horrible coach (false), or expect the man to know his fame. He simply introduced himself and shared that he was experienced in this area.

- **A humble person is not one who thinks little of himself, hangs his head, and says, "I'm nothing." Rather, he is one who depends wholly on the Lord for everything, in every circumstance. - David Wilkerson**
- David showed great humility because he learned to follow before he could lead. He was in no rush to become king, and he was fine waiting for God's timing.
- **David was a man of Vision: 17:25-26 So the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel; and it shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father's house exemption from taxes in Israel." Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?";**
- **34-37 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." Moreover David said, "The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!"**
  - Goliath was a 9'9" giant. He would make pro NBA players look small. And the entire nation of Israel feared him, except David. David didn't see the giant problem in front of him because he was looking at the much bigger God that was for him.
  - God is looking for those who have good vision. Those who aren't looking at the problem, but at the God who can help them solve it.
  - Because David had seen God's faithfulness in the past when he killed a lion and a bear, he didn't see Goliath as a tough enemy, he saw him as no more than an animal, who had insulted his God, and who was terrorizing his people.
  - David was going to do some pest control. Though Goliath was big, David knew that God was bigger.
  - If we want to be used by God, we must be people of vision, people who see beyond the problem or trial, to the God who can help us in it.

- **David was a man of Courage: 17:45-48** *Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s, and He will give you into our hands.” So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.*
  - It takes courage to be used by God. Why? Because you will have trials to face and enemies to fight. You will be asked to do things that you do not want to do, such as forgive people, such as learning to work through problems with others, such as going to that job, or helping that person, or serving in that ministry.
  - Maybe you don’t want to because you feel you’re not equipped enough, smart enough, old enough, young enough, whatever reason. That’s why it takes courage to be someone God can use.
  - The disciples needed courage when they had to face numerous trials and persecutions. Even today, courage is needed to live the Christian life.
  - It takes courage to have that conversation with that brother or sister you are having a fight with, so you can set things right. It takes courage to obey, when God is calling you to a job, to a university, to a new place, that is fully out of your comfort zone.
  - It takes courage to face trials, tribulations, and problems, while living a life of faith and trust in God, and you can’t see the solution.
  - It takes courage to preach the gospel as it should be, unashamedly, with passion, to your non Christian friends and family.
  - But Jesus made it clear, that Heaven will not welcome cowards
    - *Revelation 21:8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”*
  - God is looking for men and women of courage who are willing to put aside their own pride and arrogance, to come and walk in unity, to go and preach the gospel, and to go and fight the enemy.
  - David was a man of courage, and if we want to be used by God, we need to have courage to.
- **Application:**
  - If you want to be used by God, it doesn’t matter if you are short or tall, young or old, man or woman. What matters is that you be some one with the right heart, filled the Spirit, with humility, with vision, and of great courage. God is looking for men and women to use for His kingdom, just like he used David. Will you stand up, and let God use you?
  - Don’t you think this all points to Jesus?

