## Reflecting on 1 Samuel 16-17 February 2, 2020

Introduction: This morning's message comes in the form of a first-person narrative. The goal of such a sermon is to help you understand the events of the text by hearing from someone who would have experienced them firsthand. The sermon covers the private anointing of David by the prophet Samuel (1 Sam, 16) and the battle of Elah, where David kills Goliath (1 Sam. 17). This section of the text is written in such a way that it contrasts Saul (the current king of Israel) and David (the newly anointed king-to-be).

The **Big Idea** of the narrative sermon is that *God's* choicest servants are those who step out courageously with hearts of devotion to *God* and *His* glory.

## **Questions:**

1. Did the sermon bring out any part of this familiar story in greater detail? Was there any part that you hadn't heard before?

2. If you had to summarize the main lesson of this section of Scripture, what would it be? How does this lesson apply to your life and the lives of those in your life group?

3. When Saul was introduced in previous chapters, we are immediately informed about his physical stature and appearance. This stands in great contrast to the events that led to David's anointing. Read 1 Samuel 16:7 and explain why God chose David to be king. (Also see 1 Sam 13:13-14 where Samuel talks to Saul about the next king.)

4. If David's heart was what led God to make him king over Israel, what does this say about how Christians should seek to please God? To ask the question a different way, how important is the condition of our hearts to our efforts to pleasing God?

5. For most Christians, it is much easier to talk about right behavior that pleases the Lord than it is to talk about right heart motives that please the Lord. Why are both necessary if we are going to please our heavenly Father? (As a Scriptural basis for this question, consider Mark 7:1-8, where Jesus confronts the Pharisees about their lack of heart devotion to God.)

6. The key verses of chapter 17 are verses 45-47. Read them and discuss how they encapsulate the events of the chapter.

7. Very often Christians find themselves trusting in their own strength to live and even to accomplish things for God. This passage clearly teaches the necessity of trusting in God for the victory and relying on His strength. What advice would you give someone who struggles with dependence on God?