

1 SAMUEL CHAPTER 16 LET GOD OPEN THE DOOR

THE YEAR 1020 B.C. WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR-BECAUSE IN A SECLUDED FIELD IN BETHLEHEM, GOD WAS RAISING UP A YOUTH NAMED DAVID, A "NOBODY" WHO WOULD CHANGE ISRAEL'S COURSE FOREVER. WHILE THE PEOPLE SAW ONLY A SHEPHERD, GOD SAW A KING.

SAMUEL GOES TO BETHLEHEM.

VS 1 WHAT DOES THE LORD ASK SAMUEL? SAMUEL WAS MOURNING SAUL'S TRAGEDY AS ONE MOURNS FOR THE DEAD, RECOGNIZING THAT THE DOWNFALL WAS FINAL AND IRREVOCABLE. WHEN KINGS FAIL, HOWEVER, NO PLAN OF GOD'S FAILS AND THE LORD REMINDS SAMUEL WITH A GENTLE REBUKE. WHAT DOES THE LORD TELL SAMUEL? WHY WAS SAMUEL TO GO TO BETHLEHEMITE? THE LORD CHOOSES FOR HIMSELF THE ONE HE WILL ANOINT. THIS TIME THE LORD HAD CHOSEN A YOUNG MAN WHOSE HEART WAS FULLY HIS. IF SAUL WAS THE PEOPLE'S KING, THEN DAVID WAS GOD'S KING. LOOK AT PSALM 78:70-72

70

He also chose David His servant
And took him from the sheepfolds;

71

From the care of the ewes with suckling lambs 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 with his skillful hands.

VS 2-3 HOW DOES SAMUEL RESPOND? FOR SAMUEL, THE THOUGHT OF ANOINTING A RIVAL KING AND HAVING TO PASS RIGHT THROUGH SAUL'S TOWN MADE HIM TREMBLE IN HIS SANDALS. (HOWEVER, LATER EVENTS WILL SHOW THAT SAMUEL'S CONCERNS WERE QUITE JUSTIFIED.) WHERE ARE SAMUEL'S EYES? WHAT IS THE LORD'S PLAN? THE LORD WAS NOT INSTRUCTING SAMUEL TO BE DECEITFUL; HE WAS MERELY ADDING A NEW FOCUS TO HIS TRIP.

VS 4 WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SAMUEL ARRIVES IN BETHLEHEM? THE PEOPLE WONDERED HAD THE PROPHET COME TO EXECUTE A JUDGMENT OF GOD'S? WAS HE BRINGING DIVINE CHASTISEMENT?

VS 5 HOW DOES SAMUEL ANSWER THEIR QUESTION? WHAT DOES SAMUEL TELL THE PEOPLE TO DO? CONSECRATE YOURSELVES-WORSHIP OF GOD WAS ALWAYS PRECEDED BY CLEANSING OR WASHING, BOTH OF THE OUTWARD GARMENTS AND THE INNER MAN. (EXODUS 19:10,14 ; 1 JOHN 1:9)

MAN LOOKS, GOD SEES

VS 6 WHO IS THE FIRST SON TO CATCH SAMUEL'S EYE?

VS 7 WHAT DOES THE LORD TELL SAMUEL? (AND US) HOW MUCH WE NEED TO LEARN FROM THE LORD! WE SHOULD LOOK AT THEIR CHARACTER. WE NEED TO DO WHAT SAMUEL DID-LOOK TO THE LORD FOR DISCERNMENT AND WAIT FOR HIS CHOICE. HOW DID THE LORD CHOSE? SINCE WE CAN'T SEE A PERSONS HEART, WHAT DO WE DO?

VS 8-10 THIS IS INITIALLY A DIFFICULT CONCEPT FOR SAMUEL, AS HE WAS ACCUSTOMED TO A KING WHOSE ONLY POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES WERE PHYSICAL. THE FIRSTBORN SON OF THE FAMILY TRADITIONALLY HAD THE HIGHEST HONOR. HE WOULD RECEIVE A DOUBLE SHARE IN THE INHERITANCE, AND HE WAS VIEWED AS THE AUTHORITY FIGURE IN THE NEXT GENERATION. IT IS ONLY NATURAL FOR JESSE TO PRESENT HIS SONS IN DESCENDING ORDER. BY THE TIME THEY GOT TO THE YOUNGEST, THEY MUST HAVE BEEN BECOMING PERPLEXED. JESSE ACTUALLY HAD EIGHT SONS WITH DAVID. THE FACT 1 CHRONICLES 2:13-15 INDICATES JESSE HAD SEVEN SONS MUST MEAN ONE OF THE EIGHT DIED AFTERWARD.

A NOBODY, NOBODY NOTICED. VS 11 WHAT DOES SAMUEL ASK JESSE? WHAT IS JESSE'S ANSWER? JESSE'S OH-YEAH-I-ALMOST-FORGOT REPLY REVEALED THAT DAVID HAD BEEN OVERLOOKED. THE JOB OF SHEPHERD IN DAVID'S TIME INCLUDED A FAIRLY NOMADIC LIFESTYLE, AS THE FLOCK WAS KEPT MOVING ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER IN SEARCH OF GRAZING. THE SHEPHERD WOULD LIKELY HAVE BEEN THE YOUNGEST SON, OR EVEN A HIRED HAND, AS IT WAS NOT CONSIDERED A POSITION OF PROMINENCE OR HONOR. JESSE WOULD HAVE HONORED HIS ELDEST SON BY EMPLOYING HIM CLOSER TO HOME. HOW DOES JESSE DESCRIBE HIS YOUNGEST SON? WHAT DOES SAMUEL WANT?

VS 12 HOW IS DAVID DESCRIBED?

VS 13 WHAT HAPPENS? IMAGINE DAVID'S SURPRISE. ONE MINUTE HE'S SWATTING FLIES IN THE PASTURE AND THE NEXT HE IS GETTING OIL POURED OVER HIS HEAD AND TOLD THAT HE WILL BE ISRAEL'S FUTURE KING!

WHAT LESSONS HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR IN OUR STUDY OF DAVID:

- 1. GOD'S SOLUTIONS ARE OFTEN STRANGE AND SIMPLE-WE NEED TO BE OPEN.**
- 2. GOD'S PROVISIONS ARE USUALLY SUDDEN AND SURPRISING-WE NEED TO BE READY.**
- 3. GOD'S SELECTIONS ARE ALWAYS SOVEREIGN AND SURE-WE NEED TO BE CALM.**

SO WE LEAVE YOUNG DAVID WHERE WE FOUND HIM, TENDING THE SHEEP. NOTHING HAS CHANGED...YET EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED. LET'S LOOK AT DAVID'S HEART:

23

**The Lord is my shepherd,
I will not be in need.**

2

He lets me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters.

3

He restores my soul;
He guides me in the paths of righteousness
For the sake of His name.

4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

5

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil;
My cup overflows.

6

Certainly goodness and faithfulness will follow me all the days of my life,
And my dwelling *will be* in the house of the Lord forever.

NOW CAN WE BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW DAVID COULD WRITE SUCH A BEAUTIFUL
PSALM ABOUT OUR LORD?

VS 14 SAUL'S DISORDER STEMMED FROM TWO ACTS GOD TOOK AGAINST HIM BECAUSE
OF HIS DISOBEDIENCE. WHAT HAPPENED? DO BELIEVERS TODAY HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT THE LORD TAKING HIS SPIRIT FROM US? THE ANSWER IS A REASSURING **NO** !
THE HOLY SPIRIT'S MINISTRY HAS CHANGED SINCE OLD TESTAMENT DAYS. BACK THEN,
THE SPIRIT'S TEMPORARILY EMPOWERED CERTAIN PEOPLE FOR SPECIAL TASKS
(JUDGES 3:10;6:34; 11:29;13:25). HE WOULD INDWELL BELIEVERS (NUM. 27:18). JESUS
PROMISED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WOULD COME A DAY WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT
WOULD INDWELL ALL BELIEVERS FOREVER (JOHN 14:16-17 **16** I will ask the Father, and
He will give you another Helper, so that He may be with you forever; **17** *the Helper* is the
Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know *Him*;
but you know Him because He remains with you and will be in you. THAT DAY CAME AT
PENTECOST. HE WILL NEVER DEPART FROM US AS HE DID SAUL. WHAT SHOULD BE OUR
RESPONSE TO THAT TRUTH?

VS 15 WHAT DO SAUL'S SERVANTS RECOGNIZE? MANY THEORIES HAVE BEEN PUT FORTH
CONCERNING THIS PHRASE, INCLUDING MANY MODERN PERCEPTIONS OF VARIOUS
PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS. IT IS BEST, HOWEVER, TO TAKE THE VERSE AT FACE VALUE
THAT THE LORD HIMSELF PERMITTED AN EVIL SPIRIT, OR DEMON, TO PESTER SAUL.
THE IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER IS THAT THE DEMONIC FORCE WAS
COMPLETELY UNDER GOD'S CONTROL.

VS 16-17 WHEN SAUL'S SERVANTS IDENTIFIED THE PROBLEM, WHAT WAS THE SOLUTION? WHAT KIND OF A MAN WERE THEY SEARCHING FOR? WAS SAUL OPEN TO THE SUGGESTION? WHAT DOES HE SAY?

VS 18 HAS THE LORD EVER OPENED A DOOR FOR YOU TO A GREAT OPPORTUNITY THROUGH A FRIEND? WHAT HAPPENS TO DAVID? DAVID'S NAME WAS THE FIRST TO COME TO ONE OF THE SERVANTS. WHAT DOES HE TELL US ABOUT DAVID? THE LORD MOVES DAVID INTO THE PALACE WHERE HE NEEDED TO BE-INTO THE PALACE TO LEARN PALACE WAYS. WHAT REQUIREMENTS DID DAVID HAVE? WHICH DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENT? WHY? THE LORD WAS WITH DAVID. THIS IS THE REASON DAVID HAD ACCOMPLISHED SO MANY AREAS AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE. HE HAD A HEART FOR GOD. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE WHAT A LIFE THAT HAS A HEART FOR GOD LOOKS LIKE?

VS 19 WHERE WAS DAVID? WHAT DOES THIS SHOW US ABOUT DAVID'S HEART? DAVID'S LOWLY, HUMBLE OCCUPATION IS EMPHASIZED HERE. HE GAVE EVIDENCE OF THAT AND PATIENCE BY RETURNING FAITHFULLY TO HIS DUTY FOLLOWING SAMUEL'S ANOINTING. SAUL DID NOT WILLINGLY GIVE UP THE THRONE AND HIS LATER LIFE WOULD BE SPENT TRYING TO KILL GOD'S ANOINTED KING. YET HERE WE SEE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREVENT GOD'S WILL FROM COMING TO PASS, AS SAUL INVITED HIS OWN SUCCESSOR INTO HIS INNER COURT.

VS 20 ENTER THE NEXT RULER OF ISRAEL... LEADING A LOADED DONKEY WITH A JUG OF HOMEMADE WINE SWINGING FROM ITS SIDE. HE HAD NO INKLING OF PROTOCOL, NO COURT SAVVY, AND NO UNDERSTANDING OF POLITICAL PRESSURE, BUT IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR DAVID TO MAKE A PLACE FOR HIMSELF IN SAUL'S COURT.

VS 21-22 ONCE A FAITHFUL SHEPHERD, HE WAS NOW A FAITHFUL SERVANT, HUMBLE AND SUPPORTIVE, WILLING TO USE HIS GIFTS FOR THE KING'S GOOD. IN THIS WAY, YOUNG DAVID PROVIDED A RESPITE FOR THE TORTURED KING. HOW DID SAUL FEEL ABOUT DAVID?

VS 23. THIS PHRASE SEEMS TO INDICATE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD WAS USING DAVID AND HIS MUSIC TO BRING GENUINE SPIRITUAL REFRESHMENT TO SAUL. THIS SHOWS US ONCE AGAIN THE MERCY OF THE LORD.

CLOSING THOUGHTS- MAN LOOKS AT THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE, BUT THE LORD LOOKS AT THE _____. WHEN SAUL WAS ANOINTED KING, THE QUALITIES THE PEOPLE NOTICED WERE THAT HE WAS TALL AND STRONG, STANDING HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE HIS PEERS. WHEN SAMUEL MET THE SONS OF JESSE, HE WAS IMMEDIATELY TAKEN BY THE ELDEST SON BECAUSE HE TOO WAS TALL, STRONG, AND VERY HANDSOME. THE LORD LOOKS ON THE HEARTS OF PEOPLE, NOT THEIR OUTWARD APPEARANCES. HE IS CONCERNED WE REFLECT THE HEART OF CHRIST AND DEVOTE OURSELVES TO OBEDIENCE AND FAITHFULNESS. DO WE RELECT THE HEART OF CHRIST AND DEVOTE OURSELVES TO OBEDIENCE AND FAITHFULNESS? THIS SHOULD BE THE FOCUS OF ALL GOD'S PEOPLE. IN GALATIANS PAUL WROTE, "DO NOT

BE DECEIVED, GOD WILL NOT BE MOCKED; FOR WHATEVER A MAN SOWS, THAT HE WILL ALSO REAP". (GALATIANS 6:7-8)

EVEN IN THE MIDST OF DISCIPLINE, THE LORD PROVIDES HELP. GOD'S DISCIPLINE OF SAUL WAS INTENDED TO BRING HIM INTO OBEDIENCE, NOT TO DESTROY HIM. DOES THE LORD DO THE SAME TODAY WHEN WE PERSIST IN DISOBEDIENCE? THE LORD WILL USE MANY TOOLS AND METHODS, INCLUDING HIS WORD AND OTHER PEOPLE IN THE FAMILY OF CHRIST, BUT HIS END GOAL IS ALWAYS TO MAKE US MORE LIKE HIS SON.

A LESSON FROM DAVID- AS A SHEPHERD, HE TENDED THE SHEEP AS BEST HE COULD, AS THE KING'S MUSICIAN, HE CARED FOR SAUL THE BEST HE COULD. HE FOCUSED ON THE OPPORTUNITIES IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF HIM AND LEFT THE ROAD AHEAD WITH GOD.

HOW CAN WE FOCUS ON HAVING A MORE GODLY HEART THIS WEEK? WHAT KIND OF MUSIC FLOWS FROM YOUR LIFE? DOES IT CONSIST OF THE DISCORD TONES OF BITTERNESS, SELFISH AMBITION, AND PRIDE? OR DO YOU HEAR THE SOOTHING HARMONIES OF GOD'S SPIRIT-LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, AND SELF-CONTROL (GAL. 5:22-23)? IN A QUIET MOMENT, LISTEN TO YOUR HEART. WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DO YOU HEAR?

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