

I. Intro

A. Text: **1 Sam. 16:1-7**

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.”² And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.” 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?”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!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.” (1 Sam. 16:1-7)

B. Context

1. Because Saul Rejected the word of the Lord, God rejected him from being king.

a. Samuel mourned for Saul.

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.” (1 Sam. 16:1)

2. Samuel was instructed to go to Jesse’s house, have a banquet to consecrate one of Jesse’s boys as the next king.

a. Samuel got there and saw Jesse’s oldest son, Eliab.

⁶So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is before Him! (1 Sam. 16:6)

- b. God gave Samuel instructions that provide a glimpse into the difference between how He sees and how man sees. (1 Sam. 16:7)

⁷But 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.” (1 Sam. 16:7)

II. Body

- A. God chose David: Jesse’s youngest son as the object of His affection and love.

- 1. This entire banquet was for David. The problem was that David wasn’t even invited to the celebration.

⁸So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen these.” ¹¹And 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.” (1 Sam. 16:8-11a)

- a. One by one, Jesse presented his sons to Samuel as the next potential King of Israel.
 - b. 7 times, Jesse presented his best and his best wasn’t good enough.
 - c. “Are all the young men here?” (v.11)

¹¹And 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.” (1 Sam. 16:11a)

- i. “There remains the one...”
 - ii. David’s own father forgot about him, disregarded him, devalued him, displaced him.

B. David's Leadership Was Based On A Servant's Heart

"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 till he comes here." (1 Sam. 16:11)

1. The next king of the nation was the forgotten, disregarded one, who was out keeping sheep.
 - a. While everyone else was busy looking important and dignified, the one God had eyes on was out in the fields.
 - i. Now keeping sheep was often a job that no one else wanted to do.
 - b. Here's what David did have: He had enough sense to serve with tenacity, knowing that his own family might reject him. But he was loved by God.
2. The next wave of leaders are not the ones who jockey for position or find seats at the table.
3. David certainly knew that the prophet Samuel was in town and that there was a celebration going on. I believe that he also knew that he wasn't invited.
 - a. It didn't bother David a bit. He just kept on serving.

C. David's Earthly Father Forgot About Him, But His Heavenly Father Stopped the Show for Him.

"And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here." (1 Sam. 16:11b)

1. God spoke through the prophet, Samuel, go get the rejected one. Go get the forgotten one, the disregarded one.
 - a. We won't sit down at the table until he's in his place.
 - b. Everybody's Waiting For You.
2. God stopped the party for the one He loved, the one He chose.

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!” 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. (1 Sam. 16:12-13)

3. They refused to sit down until David arrived to the celebration.

- a. Chosen and Anointed, but not yet appointed.
- b. The Spirit of the Lord was upon him.

D. Although David was Anointed, He Refused To Stay Seated. He Kept Serving.

¹⁴ But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him. 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.” ¹⁷ So Saul said to his servants, “Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me.” (1 Sam. 16:14-17)

1. Saul had the position.

- a. David had the anointing.

2. Saul had a distressing spirit.

- a. David had the Spirit of the Lord.

3. Rather than let his gifts soak and sour, waiting for his position of leadership to open, David simply served where he was at on the way to where he was headed.

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.” 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 armorbearer... 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. (1 Sam. 16:18-21)

III. Conclusion

- A. Saul had been rejected (as king) and David had just been anointed as king.
 - 1. Where else do you see the anointed king come to serve a rebellious, rejected, miserable has-been?
- B. David, the Son of Jesse, was a type and shadow of a greater David: Jesus Christ the Son of God.

²⁵ “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.²⁷ And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Matt. 20:25-28)

- a. And He calls you to share in His greatness:
 - i. Displayed by a selfless, sacrificial giving of self.