

1Samuel 16

Big Idea: God is seeking surrendered people, not impressive people.

Almost or All-In?

Saul represents the person who wants God’s blessing without full surrender. He followed God’s instructions selectively. He protected his image. He built a monument to himself. He feared losing influence more than losing God’s favor. Saul was religious. He was strategic. He was impressive. But he was not all-in.

Meet the Shepherd who would be King

God instructed Samuel to go to the house of Jesse. One by one Jesse’s sons are inspected by Samuel. They are all rejected. Samuel asks, "Is there another son?" The answer is "Yes." Jesse sends for his youngest son, David. This would be highly irregular. The eldest son is typically the heir to any throne. But again, God's nation would be different.

David, the All-In King

Saul looked like a king. David looked like a shepherd. But God saw something Saul did not possess: a surrendered heart. This is what separated David from king Saul. Saul was halfway-in, David was all-in. Saul used his power and position for selfish gain. David's heart was always inclined to God first. God is looking for the same today. Surrendered people, not impressive people.

Saul’s Decline and David’s Rise (1Samuel 17-18)

David found fame the day he struck down the giant. 1Samuel 18 records Saul’s decline – the beginning of the end. Jealousy consumed Saul. The people sang for David. He became a hero in Israel. Insecurity takes root in Saul. Saul spends fourteen years hunting the very man who would one day take his throne. Meanwhile, David waits. Hiding in caves, moving from village to village, David was a fugitive. He does not seize the throne when he has opportunity. He does not strike Saul (God’s anointed) when he has the chance. He trusts God’s timing. He waits. The question is "why"?

Answer: David is being shaped by suffering.

David was anointed by Samuel as a teenager. He would not become king until he was 30. Why? Because David was being shaped through suffering. God was transforming a shepherd into a king. God uses delay as discipleship. He uses hardship as preparation. He uses opposition to refine character.

Take Away

Saul went almost all the way. David went all-in. The question for us is simple: Which will we be? Almost or All-in? Anyone can attend worship, give, and pray, but God is looking for hearts fully surrendered. He is looking for people who refuse to be intimidated by Giants.

Family Night – Read 1Samuel 16:1-13

- **Elementary School:** Ask, "Why was Samuel afraid to go and anoint a new king? Which son of Jesse’s did God choose? Why was choosing David a surprise to Samuel? What job was David doing when he was chosen by Samuel?"
- **Middle / High School:** Ask, "What does "God looks at the heart" (v.7) mean? What can we learn from this principle. How should it affect our relationships with others? How should it impact our faithwalk?"

Prayer: "Father, we want to be fully surrendered to You and Your plan. Help us please. Amen"

<p>Velocity (Middle and High School Students) Velocity: Meets on Wednesdays here at the church. Gravity: Today in Both Services</p> <p>Today’s Songs <i>O Worship the King</i>.....Chris Tomlin <i>Good Good Father</i>.....Chris Tomlin <i>The Lord’s Prayer</i>.....Matt Maher</p> <p>Baptism Service Our next Baptism is March 29th. If you are interested, use the Communication Card and we will call you.</p>	<p>Ghost Pirates Hockey Game Join us March 20th in a private section at the Enmarket Arena in Savannah. Tickets are \$35 and available on the GCC Website: gracestatesboro.com.</p> <p>Wandering to Jerusalem Wondering to Jerusalem is for Easter like Wondering to Bethlehem was for Christmas. The outdoor event is Wednesday, March 18. Come and experience the last week of Jesus’ life. Sign up in KidsJAM.</p> <p>"The Story" Chapter 11 Today</p>
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