

## Introduction to David

David is one of the most prominent figures in the Bible. He was a shepherd, a warrior, a king, and a man after God's own heart<sup>1</sup>. His life is filled with lessons on faith, leadership, repentance, and God's grace.

David's story is exciting and multifaceted. From his anointing by Samuel, his victory over Goliath, his complex relationship with King Saul, to his reign as king and his personal failures and repentance<sup>2</sup>. His life is a testament to God's faithfulness and mercy.

David is also known for his contributions to the Book of Psalms. His psalms express a wide range of emotions, from deep despair to exuberant praise, and they provide a model for how we can communicate with God in all circumstances<sup>2</sup>.

## Themes to Explore

David's faith in God was evident from a young age. His trust in God enabled him to face giants and lead a nation<sup>1</sup>.

David's life was not without sin. His story of repentance after his sin with Bathsheba is a powerful example of God's forgiveness and the importance of a contrite heart<sup>3</sup>.

Despite his flaws, David was a great leader who sought to honor God. His humility and willingness to seek God's guidance are qualities we can all strive to emulate<sup>1</sup>.

## Discussion Questions

1. What can we learn from David's faith and trust in God?
2. How does David's story of repentance and forgiveness resonate with us today?

3. In what ways can we apply David's leadership qualities in our own lives?

I want to encourage you to dive into the life of David with an open heart and mind. His story is not just about a historical figure, but about understanding God's character and His plan for redemption through Jesus Christ, the Son of David<sup>2</sup>.

## 1 Samuel 16

**16 And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.**

**<sup>2</sup>And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD.**

**<sup>3</sup>And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee.**

**<sup>4</sup>And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably?**

**<sup>5</sup>And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.**

**<sup>6</sup>And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.**

<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

<sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

<sup>10</sup> Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these.

<sup>11</sup> And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

<sup>12</sup> And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

<sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

<sup>14</sup> But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

<sup>15</sup> And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee.

<sup>16</sup> Let our lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on an harp: and it shall

come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well.

<sup>17</sup> And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring him to me.

<sup>18</sup> Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him.

<sup>19</sup> Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep.

<sup>20</sup> And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul.

<sup>21</sup> And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armor bearer.

<sup>22</sup> And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favor in my sight.

<sup>23</sup> And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

## **David Is Anointed King**

Man's judgment cannot be compared with God's, because man cannot see as God sees. Knowing this, Samuel sought God's counsel in all matters, not trusting his own. This was his secret of success as a prophet. This principle is still true today. The same success will be the result of our following it. We cannot afford not to follow it.

Possession of the Holy Spirit is a requirement for making the right choices.

In our daily lives, we often face decisions that seem overwhelming or unclear. It is in these moments that we must remember to seek God's guidance, just as Samuel did. By surrendering our will to His and allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us, we can navigate life's challenges with divine wisdom and assurance. Trusting in God's perfect vision and judgment will not only bring us success but also peace and fulfillment. Let us commit to seeking His counsel in all things, knowing that His ways are higher than our ways, and His thoughts higher than our thoughts.

**1 Samuel 16:1-5** How long wilt thou mourn . . . ? God had rejected Saul from reigning over Israel. No doubt Samuel's grief was hindering his service to God, filling too much of his thoughts. He could do nothing to change Saul's condition. The Lord knew that Samuel would benefit by having some task to do. Fill thine horn with oil, and go . . . I have provided me a king. . . . God cared about Saul, too, but He saw the whole picture. He was going forward. God will never allow anything man attempts to alter His plan. He put His plan into Samuel's hand to help carry it out. God's plan is always definite and complete. One of Jesse's sons was to be king. It belonged to God to provide or choose a ruler. The ruler was His to serve His purpose.

Samuel's last message from God to Saul had been very offensive to Saul. It had caused so much tension that Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death. Saul felt jealousy toward whoever would take his place and suspicion toward Samuel, the probable one to anoint a new king. Samuel feared for his life should he do it with Saul's knowledge. His coming caused trembling in Bethlehem. The elders were thinking of Samuel's authority, and Saul's feelings, and

were fearful to make any move. The Lord shielded the anointing from Saul's detection by ordering a sacrifice at the same time. Samuel prepared as told.

Jesse and sons and others must be sanctified to partake of the sacrifice. This was an outward ceremonial cleansing of the body and clothing to be prepared for worship. It was symbolic of the inner heart cleansing we must have to truly worship. Worship must come from a pure heart.

**1 Samuel 16:6-10** The first to come before Samuel was the eldest son, Eliab. Samuel saw his fine physique and handsome face. "What a king he will make!" he thought. God thought differently because He saw differently. He looked at Eliab's heart which was not as beautiful as his body. In the heart is the preparation for life, whatever course that life follows. It was the same with all seven sons.

Try to imagine how perplexing this must have been for Samuel. Yet he listened and waited on the Lord. The Lord knew who He wanted for king before they passed in review, but He let Samuel view all before revealing His choice. Why? Perhaps it was to clarify Samuel's thoughts, to insure against later doubts as to the correctness of the choice. Perhaps to illustrate forcibly that outward appearances are not trustworthy guides. Perhaps to give Samuel an opportunity to exercise his will—whether to choose as he wished, or to wait for God's Word. We have that power and God does not take it from us and overstep our will. If we make a choice by ourselves, we must take the consequence of that choice. It is good to listen to God's guidance and obey.

In this passage, we see a profound lesson about the nature of God's selection and the importance of inner character over outward

appearance. **1 Samuel 16:7** is a key verse that encapsulates this truth: “But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’”

This teaches us that God’s criteria for leadership and service are vastly different from human standards. While humans may be swayed by physical attributes, God values the condition of the heart. This is a reminder for us to cultivate a heart that is pleasing to God, characterized by humility, integrity, and faithfulness.

Samuel’s experience also underscores the importance of patience and discernment in seeking God’s will. Despite his initial assumptions, Samuel waited for God’s direction, demonstrating obedience and trust. This is a powerful example for us to follow, especially when faced with decisions that may seem clear-cut based on external factors.

Moreover, this passage highlights the sovereignty of God in His choices. God’s selection of David, the youngest and seemingly least likely candidate, emphasizes that His ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9). It reassures us that God sees potential and purpose in places we might overlook.

In our own lives, we are often tempted to make judgments based on appearances or societal standards. However, this story encourages us to seek God’s perspective and to value what He values. It calls us to develop a heart that aligns with His will, trusting that His guidance will lead us to the right path.

**1 Samuel 16:11-13** Are here all. . . ? If so, had he misunderstood the Lord? No, there was one more, the youngest. He was keeping the sheep and was probably the least important to Jesse. However, he

was most important to God. He too was of a beautiful countenance, and goodly outwardly. The Lord chose him for his obedient heart. The Lord loves obedience above all other things. He did not have Saul's faults of rebellion and stubbornness. Samuel anointed him. Now he was king, even though he did not begin to rule actively until some time later. The Spirit of the Lord came upon David and remained.

In this passage, we see a profound example of how God values the heart over outward appearances. David, the youngest son of Jesse, was overlooked by his own family, yet he was chosen by God. This selection underscores the biblical truth found in 1 Samuel 16:7, where the Lord tells Samuel, "For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

David's humble beginnings as a shepherd reflect the qualities that God cherishes: humility, faithfulness, and a servant's heart. These attributes made David a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). Unlike Saul, who was rejected for his disobedience and pride, David's obedience and devotion set him apart.

When Samuel anointed David, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, signifying God's empowerment and presence in his life. This anointing was a divine appointment, preparing David for his future role as king. Though he did not immediately ascend to the throne, this moment marked the beginning of God's plan for David's life.

This passage reminds us that God often chooses the least likely candidates to fulfill His purposes, demonstrating that His ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9). It encourages us to remain faithful and obedient, trusting that God sees our hearts and will use us for His glory in His perfect timing.



**1 Samuel 16:14-23** God's plan for David to rule His kingdom was in motion. He was summoned to play before Saul and to be his armor bearer. This gave him useful acquaintance with the king's office. God was with him in slaying the lion and the bear before he faced Goliath and slew him. God used these and many more victorious battles to prepare David to be Israel's greatest king. What qualifications fit a man to rule a nation? With what did the Lord qualify both Saul and David? This is more than the attributes usually considered essential today. God wants a disposition to obey Him rooted in our inmost beings.

In 1 Samuel 16:14-23, we see the unfolding of God's divine plan for David. His summoning to play the harp for Saul and later becoming his armor bearer was not a mere coincidence but a strategic move by God. This period allowed David to gain invaluable insight into the workings of the royal court and the responsibilities of kingship.

David's journey was marked by God's providence and preparation. The slaying of the lion and the bear were not just acts of bravery but divine training for the greater challenge of facing Goliath. Each victory was a step in God's meticulous plan to mold David into a leader after His own heart.

The qualifications for ruling a nation, as exemplified by David, go beyond mere human attributes such as strength, wisdom, or charisma. Both Saul and David were chosen by God, but their paths diverged based on their obedience and heart's disposition towards God. Saul's disobedience led to his downfall, while David's unwavering faith and obedience, despite his imperfections, made him a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22).

God desires leaders who are not only capable but also have a deep-seated commitment to obey Him. This obedience must stem from an inner transformation and a genuine relationship with God.

As Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

In today’s context, the attributes that qualify a person to lead should still include a heart aligned with God’s will, a disposition to obey Him, and a life that reflects His love and justice. As we reflect on David’s journey, let us be reminded of the importance of seeking God’s guidance and striving to be leaders who honor Him in all aspects of our lives.

### **CLOSING**

In 1 Samuel 16, we witness the profound moment when God chooses David, a humble shepherd, to be anointed as the future king of Israel. This chapter reminds us that God does not look at outward appearances but at the heart. As we reflect on this passage, let us be encouraged to seek God’s will in our lives and trust in His divine wisdom. May we strive to cultivate hearts that are pleasing to Him, knowing that He sees our true selves and has a purpose for each of us. Let us remain faithful and obedient, ready to serve Him in whatever capacity He calls us to, just as David did.

### **JUST A THOUGHT**

The diamond cannot be polished without friction,  
nor man perfected without trials.