

***David Part 2***  
***Music For The Soul***

I Samuel 16:13-23

May 15, 2022

One Sunday, the pastor was preaching about alcohol and he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd throw it in the river! And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd throw it in the river! And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd throw it in the river!" He spoke for a few more minutes and gave the closing prayer. Then, the choir director, known for her taste for booze, stood up and said, "Please turn to our closing hymn, Shall We Gather at the River." Music can be used for many purposes as we'll find today. Please open your Bibles to I Samuel 16.

If you were with us last Sunday, you know that we began a new sermon series on one of the most dominant characters in the Bible, say David. Last week, we were introduced to this ruddy lad who was the youngest and least important of his family and who had to be summoned from the range maggots, I meant sheep, in order to be anointed future king by Samuel. We learned a very important lesson that although man looks on the outward appearance, God looks on the heart. David is later called a man after God's own heart. We'll get to see a little more of David's heart today in. If you are able, please stand as we read from 1 Sam 16:13

13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.

14 Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him. 15 Saul's attendants said to him, "See, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you. 16 Let our lord command his servants here to search for someone who can play the harp. He will play when the evil spirit from God comes upon you, and you will feel better."

17 So Saul said to his attendants, "Find someone who plays well and bring him to me." 18 One of the servants answered, "I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the harp. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the Lord is with him."

19 Then Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep." 20 So Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them with his son David to Saul.

21 David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much, and David became one of his armor-bearers. 22 Then Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, "Allow David to remain in my service, for I am pleased with him."

23 Whenever the spirit from God came upon Saul, David would take his harp and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.

This is the second little vignette that provides some insight into David's heart. Verse 13 overlapped with last week's message but also helps to bridge the gap to this week's. In that verse, the Holy Spirit came on David, but in the very next one we find that He had left Saul. Say Saul. It's really impossible to talk about David without talking about King Saul. Their lives are intertwined.

Last week we only mentioned Saul in passing. He had been king in Israel for nearly 30 years by this time and had managed to thoroughly turn away from the God who called him to that position. He had changed from a valiant young man to a moody old one and because he had spurned God, God had already appointed David to eventually replace him. You might remember in last week's Scripture, Samuel, who had ruled Israel before he himself anointed Saul was now scared this monster would likely kill him if he knew he was searching out a new king. A classic example of power corrupting an individual to such an extent that he even wants to control all things spiritual and religious instead of the other way around. That's still happening today.

And because of his steadfast refusal to obey God, not only had God withdrawn His Holy Spirit, He had sent a troubling one instead. Does God have the ability to cause us trouble in our souls? If you've even been convicted of your sin or been bothered by your conscience, you know the answer to that question. God's conviction troubles us. It should. Although this verse doesn't go into detail as to what this means exactly, that is what I believe is going on. Because Saul had known the Lord, because he had experienced the sweet blessing of His presence, and because he now missed that and was being convicted of all of his sin, he was troubled. It was to him, an evil spirit that caused him anxiety and grief. When we disobey God, we **should** be anxious, we **should** be filled with grief until we repent at which time we can regain His peace. Sadly, King Saul never did that.

Instead, he sat and stewed and boiled and often boiled over on those around him in the form of angry outbursts. Sadly, we do that sometimes, too. We are under conviction of God, we refuse to repent and are spiritually fighting against Him and then we blow up at those closest to us. If you are troubled in your spirit, in your heart, repent of all you know and ask God for Jesus' peace.

Saul's attendants are likely too scared to give Him that advice so instead, they try to cover it up. Turn on the TV and let the entertainment distract you. Only there was no TV so they called up a live musician. It just happened to be the shepherd boy we met last week. Apparently someone from Saul's palace had been to karaoke night down in Bethlehem and heard David. Notice the qualifications given in verse 16. He has to play well. The Hebrew word also means skillfully or diligently. Someone who has practiced and does a good job. This is for the king. When we play or sing for our King Jesus, He deserves the very best skill and practice that we have! And not just winging it. David

was skillful. Maybe Solomon was remembering his dad when he wrote Prov 22:29 Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men.” I’m sure our musicians want to know what type of instrument David was skillful with. It obviously wasn’t an electric bass or a steel guitar. We don’t know exactly, but if it was like others in those days, it probably had 4-8 strings and he probably played it with a pick, possibly made from a turtle shell.

And even though most of this story has been about Saul, verse 18 tells us more about our man, David. 1. He’s a brave man, 2 He’s a warrior. 3 He speaks well 4. He is fine looking, and 5, the Lord is with him. Those first four are all good qualities, but the last is most important. Even from his youth, it was obvious that the Lord was with David. Because the Holy Spirit was now controlling him, it affected all other parts of his life and was obvious to other people as well.

The Holy Spirit does the same for us. These 7 who will be baptized today have accepted Jesus as their Savior and as the Holy Spirit has entered them, if they allow Him to, He will enhance everything else they do. Their speaking, their bravery, their music, their schoolwork and even their appearances. And yours too! But we have to allow Him to. We have to trust Him with our control panel and not try to keep controlling our own lives. That’s what got us in this mess. Hand Him the wheel and move to the back seat for crying out loud.

So Saul, without a clue that David has already been anointed to take his place one day, sends for David who is back out with the sheep, even after his new calling. Last week Samuel came to Bethlehem to find David, this week **Saul’s** black SUVs pulls up outside Jesse’s house to deliver the official draft notice.

Vs 20 So Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them with his son David to Saul. Perhaps David’s son, Solomon was thinking of this when he wrote Prov 18:16 A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great. Before the IRS this is how they paid taxes. Jesse was not to send David to the king emptyhanded. Nor should we come before God emptyhanded. We bring an offering and come before Him as God’s Word tells us to. I knew a lady once who wouldn’t come to church if she didn’t have an offering for that Sunday. Listen, you don’t have to bring money each Sunday. I get paid monthly and pay my tithe and offering monthly, but I still show up the other weeks. What’s more important is the offering of your heart. Bring what you do have and come!

So David entered the service of King Saul at the palace and gained his favor. God’s Spirit can help you gain favor with **your** boss, with **your** teachers, with **your** students, **your** clients, with others in general. David not only was Saul’s personal musician, he also became his armor bearer. That’s kind of an interesting combination. We don’t often see those two combined, but David was indeed a

renaissance man. He could work sheep, kill bears, fire a sling, play music, speak well, **and** bear armor. What a young man!

Vs 23 “Whenever the spirit from God came upon Saul, David would take his harp and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.” Say Music. Did you ever think how dull your life would be without music? James 5:13 says, “Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise.” Music enriches our lives in so many ways. We sing lullabies to our babies, we dance to songs of joy at weddings, and mourn with dirges at funerals. I dare say most of us listen to some type of music most every day.

Let me gently ask why and what type? Although music is a wonderful balm for troubled spirits, we must be careful not to use it, like Saul, to cover up something we need to confess or resolve. We must not use it as a distraction from important things we need to address. According to Spotify, there are over 1,300 different types of music today including everything from Norwegian Hip Hop to Swedish Reggae to Appalachian Bluegrass. Some of it glorifies God. Much of it does not. Music is a very powerful medium that can bring us closer to God or lead us further from Him. Music can soothe our souls as Bob Seger reminded us or it can embolden us. Be careful what music you allow into your ears and into your mind.

Wouldn't you love to know what songs David played for King Saul. We do not know but I imagine it was some he wrote while tending sheep. My guess is they were soft and soothing. Easy listening. Perhaps songs that reflect on God's creation which also provides music all around us. The wind in the trees, the rumble of thunder, the choruses of birds and the songs of the peepers. As we mentioned last week, several of David's songs glorify God for His magnificent Creation even as some of our hymns do today. How Great Thou Art, For the Beauty of the Earth, I Sing The Mighty Power of God, etc. David wrote his own such as Psalm 8 & 19 that we mentioned last week. But also Ps 29 that says, Ps 29:3-11 “The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters. 4 The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic. 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. ...7 The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning. 8 The voice of the Lord shakes the desert; the Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh. 9 The voice of the Lord twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, "Glory!" 10 The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever. 11 The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.” I'd love to know the hymn tune for that one! That would pacify Saul's troubled spirit.

Or Psalm 65, (5-13) “You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas, 6 who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength, 7 who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations. 8 Those

living far away fear your wonders; where morning dawns and evening fades you call forth songs of joy. 9 You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it. 10 You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops. 11 You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance. 12 The grasslands of the desert overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness. 13 The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.” Even without the tune, these lyrics raise us! They raise our thoughts, our minds, our hearts to God on high! Music **should** raise us! Many times in my own life God has ministered to my heart through music. I can imagine David singing these for King Saul and the king’s heart being turned from darkness to light. From mad to glad. From earth to heaven.

As we go through David’s story, we’ll look at some more of his songs that still minister to us today even as they did to Saul and others. And before we’re done today, I want to call your attention to some of David’s other numbers that might encourage and bless us during these troubled times. In Ps 11 David asks, “When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?” Today our foundations are being destroyed! The foundations of truth and righteousness. The foundations of justice and peace. The foundations of our nation and society. The foundations of marriage and family. Listen as David answers his own question, under the control of the Spirit by singing, “The Lord is righteous and He loves justice! In Him, I take refuge!” And Psalm 12:1-2 Help, Lord, for the godly are no more; the faithful have vanished from among men. 2 Everyone lies to his neighbor; their flattering lips speak with deception...” Sound familiar? David continues, 7 “O Lord, you will keep us safe and protect us from such people forever.” David was looking forward to people.

We need those words and that music today! We need those reminders when our foundations are being destroyed and when all is crumbling around us. We need to remember that God will keep us safe and protect us from those who lie and speak with flattering lips. Music can help us pray and worship and trust. I’m so thankful for Christian radio that floods our minds with good encouraging music that lifts our spirits and focuses us on Jesus.

I remember one time years ago, I was struggling. Really Struggling. I had gone out into the woods up near hunter’s Shanty to seek God and to cry out to Him. Something horrible had happened and I didn’t know what was going to happen. After weeping and praying and agonizing I eventually got back to the car, my old escort, and turned on the radio set to 1470 WBTX, and the song that was playing was John Starnes, The Door of Hope is always open. Wow. God spoke to me through that song and encouraged me. Was that an coincidence that that song just happened to be playing at that time? No way in a million years. But if I didn’t have my radio tuned to that station, I never would have heard it. I’m so thankful for Christian radio and for

Christian musicians who raise us up when our spirits are troubled. If your car radio isn't tuned to a Christian station, please change it so it is. There are many. Southern Gospel, contemporary, old hymns. People say, "I never hear from God." We won't if we're listening to the Devil's station.

I don't know what kind of spirit is in your soul today. If you are happy and joyful, you can sing loud and proud. Sing joyfully to the Lord. But if you are sad and mourning or worried and concerned, there's music for that as well. I'm so thankful for the wonderful gift of music that God has given to David and to us. I pray that we will worship God for this glorious gift of music and that you use it to minister to your own heart as well as to others in all the seasons of life.