

## *Meet The Next King!*

I Samuel 16:1-13

May 8, 2022

Please open your Bibles today to I Samuel 16. Today we're going to start a new sermon series on one of my favorite Bible Characters. Say David. Most anyone who's ever been around a church for even a little bit has heard of David and probably knows some of the stories about him. Over the next few weeks, God willing, we're going to look at what the Bible tells us about this man and see what we can learn from his experience that might help us be more faithful followers of the Root and Offspring of David, Jesus.

To help get our historical bearings, we need to remember some key Biblical dates. In very round numbers, God created the heavens and the earth about 6,000 years ago or about 4,000BC. About 1600 years later, or about 2400BC, God destroyed the earth with the flood of Noah's day. About 400 years after that, about the year 2000BC, God made some pretty amazing promises to a guy named Abraham that He's still keeping today. About 1875BC, Abraham's great grand-children ended up in Egypt and became slaves until God used Moses to lead them out in the Exodus about 1500BC. After wandering in the wilderness for 40 years and eventually entering and conquering the Promised Land, judges like Gideon, Samson, and Deborah ruled the Israelites. The last judge was a guy named Samuel whose mother dedicated him to God's service when he was very young. Thank God for godly mothers!

It was during Samuel's lifetime that the Israelites decided they didn't want judges anymore, they wanted a king like every other nation. Peer pressure is nothing new. So God raised up Saul about the year 1100BC. Saul started out good but got crosswise pretty quickly and when he refused to obey God, God decided to replace him which brings us to today's Scripture that took place about the year 1050BC or so. It's about 600 years before Esther. If you are able, please stand as we read from I Sam 16:1

1 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

2 But Samuel said, "How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me."

The Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."

4 Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?"

5 Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord."

7 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 man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." 9 Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the Lord chosen this one." 10 Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these." 11 So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep."  
Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

12 So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one."

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.

There were no elections in those days. This was God's call and His call alone. We learn several things here about the future King. First off, we find that he is a son of Jesse. Say Jesse. This is not the first time we find Jesse in the Bible. In Ruth 4:16-17, we are told, "Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him. 17 The women living there said, "Naomi has a son." And they named him Obed. He was the father of **Jesse**, the father of David." So Jesse was the grandson of Ruth and Boaz. Ruth had come from Moab and was adopted into the Israeli nation when she stayed true to her mother in law, Naomi. Boaz, of course, was the noble kinsman redeemer who bought the land, married the wife, lost his shoe, and settled the matter.

It helps to know where you come from. David had good roots. Not perfect, but good godly roots. We don't know a lot about his mom and dad, but we know a good bit about his great grandparents Ruth and Boaz. They loved and served God. And my guess is that they passed that legacy down to their future generations. Which would have given David reason to write in Psalm 145: 4 "One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts." David's great grandparents, grandparents and parents no doubt handed the faith down to him as they shared the stories of Noah and Abraham, Joseph and Moses, Joshua and Gideon. These were part of his heritage and his identity. David was homeschooled by his parents and they likely taught him God's holy law from the Books of Moses. He likely grew up memorizing God's Law which led him to write in Ps 40:8 "I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart." David's Psalms overflow with not only his knowledge of, but his love for God's holy Word.

Here on this Mother's Day in 2022, let's remind all parents, moms and dads, that regardless of where your child is educated, the foundation you lay for him or her in God's Word is most important. Start early, start often. Teach them. When they lay down and when they get up, when you walk on the way and when you sit at home. Memorize Scripture with them. Mr. and Mrs. Jesse had no idea they were raising the future ruler who is still considered the greatest and best king of Israel. They just raised him to know God and His Word and that's the best preparation for every future occupation and for all of life.

We learn something else about David here and that is the name of his hometown. Say Bethlehem. Most of us know Bethlehem as the birthplace of whom? But its beginnings go back a lot further. That's where Jacob's wife Rachel died and was buried and where Ruth and Boaz lived. At the time of David, it was just a small village probably not much bigger than St. Luke which is why everybody got scared when Samuel showed up. Today it is a city of nearly 30,000. Many of the world's greatest men and women have come from small towns. Don't think God can't or won't use you because you didn't grow up in Hollywood or New York. Bethlehem would later be known as the City of David, which is what the angel called it when he told the shepherds where to find the Christchild. But when David lived there as a boy, it was just little ole backwater Bethlehem.

We also learn where David fit in the family line up. Say last. Dead last. We'd call him the baby of the family. A family of at least 8 boys and probably some girls, but Samuel wasn't in the market for a queen. The Hebrew word for youngest used here also means least important. As such, David got the lowest job on the totem pole. Tending sheep. Ever since Jesus was born, we tend to think of shepherding as a noble job, but not then. It was for the youngest and the least important. There were no market lamb shows in those days. Shepherds were often out with their sheep for long periods of time to find good pastures and water. They got to know their sheep as well as the outdoors for they lived there 24/7.

It was this experience that enabled to David to write his most famous Psalm, the 23rd, the Shepherd's Psalm, for he lived it. We don't know how old he was when he wrote it but likely during these younger years while he was out in the fields fighting off wolves and bears and lions with his rod, his staff and his sling. Which would develop within him great courage to face giants, lead armies, and protect the flock of Israelites God would later entrust him with. But for now, he's out on the back 40 with his sheep and his lyre playing and singing for an audience of One. The one true God. And a couple hundred sheep. Even though he wasn't good enough for better jobs, David was using the gifts God **had** given him to care for sheep, kill predators, write poetry, and sing. While he was out there during those long nights, he had plenty of time to watch the sky and write, Ps 8:3-4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is man that you are mindful of

him, the son of man that you care for him?" And Psalm 19 And many others about God's creation. He was out amongst Creation for much of his early life.

We also learn here what David looked like. We are told more about David's appearance than we are about that of his greatest grandson, Jesus. Say ruddy. Not muddy. Ruddy means reddish. Either of hair or complexion. The Amp Bible says he had beautiful eyes and that he was fine-looking. The NIV says he had a "fine appearance and handsome features." He must have looked like me 😊. He was a looker. And God said, "That's him!" So Samuel anointed him and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power.

We'll say more about that before we're done, but think of this. Jesse has his seven oldest boys parade in front of Samuel like lambs in a sheep show. He started with his star-Eliab. The oldest. The tallest no doubt. The most handsome. "Here's the grand champion," Samuel thinks, "the best in show! Here's the next king!" After all, Saul was taller than all of his peers and Eliab is the oldest son, the logical choice. Vs 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him." Although he was oldest and the tallest on the outside, perhaps God saw his sense of entitlement on the inside. His tendency toward laziness or dishonesty. His ability to be bought at the right price. All horrible qualities for a king. We can't see those, but God can.

Then came Abinadab. With a name like that, how could he not be king? The starting QB for the Bethlehem Bandits. Lettered in 4 sports. Look at his guns, he's been at the Ephrata Gym. He could lead the Israeli Army against the Philistines any day of the week. But perhaps underneath those muscles, God saw pride instead of faith, self-confidence instead of God-confidence. One by one they came in descending height and age. All with their outward strengths, all with their inward weaknesses. This one is cowardly. That one throws temper tantrums, the next one's just plain mean. The one after him isn't firm enough. And so on down the line. After those seven, Samuel asked Jesse, "Is this all you got?" Max Lucado says a similar question similar made Cinderella's stepmother squirm.

Samuel learned an important lesson that day that he should have already known. Especially after the disaster that was King Saul. "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." God says, "My ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." In John 7:24, Jesus said, "Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment." Paul was nothing to look at we are told. Apparently Jesus wasn't either. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him. But oh, His heart! His precious loving, giving, faithful, truthful, courageous heart! To the Israelites, a person's heart was the center of everything mental, ethical, moral, and religious. As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. or she... really.

My friends, follow Jesus' advice and look beyond outward appearances! Don't judge a book by its cover. Don't judge a car by its paint, don't judge a boyfriend or a girlfriend by their body, their hair, their height, their eyes, their last name, their abilities, or their FB post. Look beyond all that. Prov 31:30 says, "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised." Or a man. Beauty's only skin deep, but ugly's to the bone. Beauty is as beauty does, but ugly holds its own. Go deeper and look at their heart. How do they treat their mom and dad? That's probably how they're going to treat you. What kind of a mom or dad will they be? Do they work hard or do they expect things to be handed to them? That probably won't change. What do they value most? Things, people, or God? In that order or reverse? You're not going to forge them into somebody they aren't already. Yes, we all change, but to marry someone thinking you will change them is one of the worst mistakes you'll ever make. They are who they are.

Years ago our legislators were told to just vote on the health care bill and find out what's in it later. It's led to a ton of problems. Young people as you're considering your choice of a mate, ask God to speak to you as He did Samuel. Take time to listen to Him and don't get carried away by outward appearances! Looks are often deceiving! Anyone who has ever hired someone faces the same thing. Resumes look great! My dad always said, "The paper lies still. You can write anything on it." Only later do you find out what's on the inside.

And then let's turn it around. What do **we** care most about? Do we spend more time in the morning getting our outward appearance ready or our inward heart? Do we work to get every hair in place or every thought surrendered to the Father? Do we care more about our reputation, who people think we are? Or who God knows we really are on the inside? Do we put on a good front or seek the Lord with all our heart? People look on the outward appearance, but God looks deeper. There's nothing wrong with making the outside look as good as possible, but for God's sake, don't neglect your heart. Jesus told the Pharisees they were whitewashed tombs: pretty on the outside, but full of dead men's bones on the inside. Their cup was clean outwardly, but crusted up with dried soup, molded vegetables, and spoiled meat inwardly. You might fool everyone else with your exterior. You will not fool God. In Jer 17:10 He says, "I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind..."

So Samuel listens to God and anoints David. Privately, only with his family. I wonder what his parents and brothers thought. It would be several years before David would actually rule but God was laying claim to that boy now. He was setting him aside for Himself. God would use the next several years to get him ready to lead His people. Perhaps God called some of you in your youth. God laid claim to you, and you turned away. Or He's calling some of our you today. Don't run from Him. Run to Him! He has great plans for you too! God still needs good leaders, giant killers,

musicians, poets, et. Use what God has given you now to glorify Him in whatever way you can. Be faithful and be patient.

Finally today, it says in vs 13, that “from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power.” Perhaps meaning that God gave David special strength, insight, or wisdom. Perhaps special musical ability, a prophetic gift, or deeper courage. The Holman Christian Standard Bible says the Spirit of the Lord took control of David from that day forward. As all believers receive the Holy Spirit at our conversion and baptisms, I pray He takes control of us from that day forward as well and that we will concentrate on our inward hearts upon which God looks that we might be ready to answer whenever He calls us. Let’s work on our hearts right now as we pray...