

Session 3 David Anointed in Bethlehem (1 Sam. 16:1-13)

I. DAVID ANOINTED IN BETHLEHEM

- A. We see the rejection of King Saul in chapter 15 and the anointing of David in chapter 16. The high point of Samuel's ministry was anointing David as the second king of Israel.

This is a four-page handout of notes. There is one on the internet that is quite a bit longer. So if you want more notes, you can go on the website and get session three's additional notes.

We ended last week in 1 Samuel 15 with the Lord rejecting Saul. He had been king for about twenty-five years or so, and he had proven himself to be stubborn in his rebellion—not immature when he stumbled, but stubborn, refusing to repent. So right here in 1 Samuel 16, the very next verse, God is sending Samuel the prophet to Bethlehem to anoint a new king. So we see the rejection of Saul followed by the anointing of David.

Now I believe that the high point of Samuel's entire ministry was anointing this young man. David was probably fifteen, sixteen, maybe seventeen years old; we do not know. He was Israel's second king because Saul was the first king.

- B. Saul's work for God had ended, but God's work would go on. This chapter is not so much about David as it is about God. We see God's personality in His choice of "weak ones" (1 Cor. 1:28).

Now Saul's kingship comes to an end in terms of God's hand being on him. It is interesting that Saul went on for ten or fifteen more years as king. The difference was that the Holy Spirit was not resting on him and the Holy Spirit was not blessing his labors. What a terrible position to be in! To be in a position of leadership, and not only is the Holy Spirit is not helping you, but the Scripture says a distressing spirit came upon Saul to torment and disturb him.

So here in 1 Samuel 16, David is being anointed. The thing that strikes us initially is, "Wow, we are going to see what David was like," but this chapter is not as much about David as it is about the Lord, because it shows what the Lord is after, what the Lord is zealous for, what the Lord is highlighting, and what the Lord is establishing. We see God's personality in what kind of leadership choices God makes.

When you read 1 Samuel 16, you could say in your heart, "Well, if God will choose a person as unqualified as David was in the natural"—I mean here he is a teenager. He had been working minimum wage out in the sheepfold, literally a menial task, like mowing lawns. I am talking about the type of job a junior high kid could do because mowing lawns can be pretty sophisticated work if you get to the higher level—God is choosing this weak, untrained, unskilled person and saying, "You are the kind of material that, when I get you in My hands, I will make into that person that I want you to be because your heart is saying yes."

So when you read 1 Samuel 16 accurately, it gives you hope that you, even you, can be used by the Lord. So what we can say in our hearts is, "Lord, even I can be used by You if this is how it works."

- C. God's rejection of Saul and choice of David was decisive, clear, and final, yet it took about 15 years for the story to unfold. His purposes come to pass, but not as fast as we would like. God usually works behind the scenes. His sovereignty was demonstrated in the context of their personal choices.

God's rejection of Saul and His choice of David was very clear. It was definitive. It was final. It took another ten years, probably closer to fifteen years, for the story to unfold completely. I mean you would have thought that since David has been anointed, he would be king right away. It is another ten to fifteen years before it happens.

Saul continues in his position, but he does not have grace on him. Beloved, you never want to be in a position in the kingdom—I do not mean only in church ministries, but in the marketplace or whatever sphere God has you in the kingdom of God—you do not want to be in a place where it is not the will of God, where the grace of God is not strengthening and helping your heart in it.

Well, Saul was rejected, and the purpose of God unfolds quite slowly over ten or fifteen years. Because God is usually working behind the scenes, His plan unfolds but not as quickly as we want it. His sovereignty is established, but often in context to the choices that we make. Meaning we would like to say that God just chose David and that is it. No, David had to continue to choose. God has this ability to combine His sovereign choice of a vessel with our ongoing choice to submit to His leadership. If we do not submit to His leadership, He will cast us off like Saul. Now David had a couple bad stumbles, and he was disciplined by the Lord. Even though the Lord sovereignly chose him, the Lord required that he responded in a personal way to the Lord.

II. SAMUEL WENT TO BETHLEHEM TO ANOINT A NEW KING (1 SAM. 16:1-3)

- A. The Lord told Samuel to go to Bethlehem to anoint a new king.

¹The 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 Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.” 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.” (1 Sam. 16:1-3)

So Samuel the prophet is going to go to Bethlehem. This is a little village, a small, little town, kind of out of the way. In verse 1, the Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn over Saul?” In the verse before, in 1 Samuel 15, the chapter closed with Samuel mourning over Saul, because he had been working closely with Saul for approximately twenty-five years.

Basically God said, “I have rejected Saul. You need to line up your personal opinions about it, My prophet Samuel, with My heart. My choices are good, and they are wise. I need you to lay aside your own views and embrace Mine.” He was actually rebuking the prophet here. Samuel did not get any real rebukes in his long ministry, but here is the hint of a rebuke. He went on, “I have rejected him and for good reason. Now here is what I want you to do: I want you to fill your horn with oil”—It was like a ram’s horn, an animal’s horn that they would put oil in—“and go to anoint the new king. I am sending you to Jesse; he is a man that lives in Bethlehem.” So the Lord gave Samuel the name Jesse ahead of time.

*Here is one of the key statements of the entire chapter. It is one of my favorite ones. “I have provided **for Myself** a king.” This is one thing that marked David’s life. David understood that he was called first and foremost for the Lord. He was a king for the Lord’s pleasure, and that was something that formed David’s mind even in his youth when Samuel the prophet made this known.*

Samuel must have communicated to David, “God went out of His way, so to speak, and choose you because He personally wanted something from you in relationship. He wanted to work through you and with you in a personal and a direct way.” Beloved, when this touches your heart, that the Lord has called you for Himself, it changes you.

Well, David knew, and later he said in 2 Samuel 5 that “God choose me and anointed me for the good of the people.” He understood he was chosen first for God and second for the good of the people.

What happens many times is that people interpret their calling as being for themselves. The guy thinks, “I have labored long. I want a breakthrough. I deserve my ministry to go forth.”

*The Lord would say, “Your ministry going forth is not about you. It is about Me, and it is about blessing My people.” It takes a lot of folks quite a while to realign their heart to view their ministry as being for the Lord and for the people, not mostly for their own satisfaction and well-being. When you make that adjustment, then you can embrace hardship and disappointment in your ministry without constantly negotiating if you are going to quit or not because you are not in it for you. This is not a small thing. This is a real, chronic, prevailing problem in the Body of Christ. So much of the burnout in the ministry happens because the man or the woman of God views their ministry and the way they are received as mostly about how it makes **them** feel good about their life and how it enriches them. When that goes bad, they begin to re-negotiate if they are going to be zealous in their ministry or maybe they will find another ministry, they will do something a little different that is a little easier, that works better for them.*

The Lord told David day one, “I am anointing you for Me; that is why I am anointing you.” David lined up with this, which is remarkable. This is one of the real signature characteristics of David’s heart.

Then Samuel in verse 2 asks, “How can I go?” Samuel had been working with Saul for twenty-five years, and Saul was getting angrier and angrier as the years went by. He was apparently more unstable at the twenty-five-year mark than he was when he was first called, because when Saul was first called he was humble and he was pliable in the Lord’s hand. He was courageous. By this point he had a lot of compromise, he was cynical, he had bitterness in his life, and he had fears driving his life. Samuel said, “Saul will kill me.” I mean to go anoint another king, while the reigning king is still alive, that is treason in any country.

The Lord answered, “Here is what I want you to do. Take a heifer and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’” So along with the anointing of one of Jesse’s sons—Samuel did not know which son it was; Jesse had eight sons—He added, “You are also going to have a sacrifice and a feast following the sacrifice that is related to devoting yourself to Me and to establishing this new king.” So the Lord gave him these instructions because Saul’s court would surely be paying attention wherever Samuel went. He said, basically, “Well, just highlight that part: that you are going to have a feast and you are going to offer a sacrifice, because you are going to commit yourself to Me in a fresh way with Jesse’s family. So highlight that part of what you are doing in Bethlehem.” Verse 3, “Invite Jesse to the sacrifice,” because the sacrificing of the animal had a big feast afterwards. Again it was in context to devoting themselves to the Lord, committing themselves in a fresh way to the Lord as well as establishing a new king.

He says, “When you get there, I will show you what you are supposed to do.” Now it is interesting because when Samuel got to Jesse’s house, he did not know which of the eight sons to anoint. He knew Jesse’s name by the voice of the Lord. He knew Jesse’s name by supernatural information, but he did not know which son. The Lord says, “I just want you to go there, and I will show you as you go.”

Samuel could have said, “Well, Lord, we are talking here. Just give me the kid’s name and settle it.”

*The Lord would have said, “No, no, I am not going to do it that way because I am going to be making a statement in the very way that I show you who I am choosing. In itself there will be a truth that will be important to see.” He did say, “And when you go there, you shall anoint for Me the young man that I point out to you.” Here it is again: you are going to anoint him **for Me**. That is the second time the Lord has said it. He is emphasizing: I want this young man to know I am anointing him **for Me**; that is why I am anointing him. I mean this is an easy statement to make, but how rare it is that people really line up and interpret their life and approach their ministry through that lens that we are anointed for the Lord first.*

- B. God's zeal and desire for David: The Lord raised up David as king for His pleasure and purpose. Samuel taught David that he was anointed as a king "for God" (1 Sam. 13:14; 16:1, 3), or for God's pleasure. He repeatedly used specific language denoting His zeal, such as "sought for Himself" (13:14), "you shall anoint for Me" (16:3), and "I have provided Myself a king" (16:1).

¹⁴**"The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart." (1 Sam. 13:14)**

¹**"For I have provided Myself a king among his sons." (1 Sam. 16:1)**

³**"You shall anoint for Me the one I name to you." (1 Sam. 16:3)**

I am going to develop this because I love this part of 1 Samuel 16. It is the Lord's zeal for partnership with His people. It is the Lord's desire for David; it is His zeal for David. He is letting David know that He is raising him up as king for God's pleasure, for God's own purpose. Samuel would emphasize this point to David, but David had a heart already in line with that truth. I mean David was inclined in that way already.

Now many of you are in Bible school; you are young and you are forming your core values. I want to tell you what Samuel would have told young David: view your calling, your future, your ministry as for the Lord and not for yourself. You will interpret setbacks and challenges and difficulties in a very different way if you make that adjustment on the front end.

Look what he says in 1 Samuel 13:14. I know it is a little repetitive but I just love this truth. The very first thing that God ever said about David back in 1 Samuel 13, "The Lord sought for Himself a man." Then in 1 Samuel 16:1, "I provided for Myself a king." Then in verse 3, "You shall anoint for Me the one I point out."

- C. David knew that he was chosen first for God, thus he responded by diligently seeking Him, longing to worship, love, and obey God and see His beauty (Ps. 27:4; cf. 18:1; 31:23; 36:8).

³**But know that the LORD has set apart for Himself him who is godly. (Ps. 4:3)**

David would write some years later in Psalm 4, "But know that the Lord has set apart for Himself the godly man, the godly woman." David was talking about himself. It was not limited to him, but he knew, "I have this dignity about my life. I have this confidence. I have this focus. I have this centering of my life. I have been called and set apart for the Lord, for Him. I get what I am about. It is not about establishing my name or my breakthrough ministry; it is about Him." David wrote that in Psalm 4:3. Beloved, put your name on that verse. See yourself in the way that David saw himself, because David sees himself here in Psalm 4:3.

- D. The elders of the city trembled when Samuel arrived in Bethlehem (16:4-5). They assumed that if a prophet was visiting them, it must be negative, to address their failure. Many people carry a residual guilt in their hearts, so the very idea of receiving prophetic ministry unsettles them.

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. (1 Sam. 16:4-5)**

Now Samuel goes to the city, and it is pretty dramatic because in verse 4 when Samuel got to Bethlehem, the elders of the city were trembling. Here is this old man. I just imagine he has really long hair because he has had a Nazarite vow since his youth. Maybe he is eighty. I do not know. I picture him with piercing eyes, probably just a little bent over, big smile on his face maybe. This man comes walking into town, the most renown man, the most

respected and feared man in the nation of Israel. He comes into little Bethlehem, little village town. It is like the president pulling up into a little village and stopping at someone's house for dinner unannounced.

So he comes into the town, and the elders say, "Well, we know who you are. Why are you in Bethlehem?" The first thing of course the elders are thinking is that Samuel is coming to bring a correction, that he is coming to point out something that has been deficient or wrong. They ask, "Are you coming peaceably? Is there trouble? Is God mad at us?" I mean isn't that interesting, that this is the first thought that many people have when they think of God sending a prophet to stand before them to speak the Word of the Lord?

You know, I have had some close relationships with some pretty strong prophetic ministries over the last thirty plus years. I have a close friendship with a number of them. One of the things I have always enjoyed—it is kind of not that great that I enjoy this—but when I would introduce some of these well-known prophetic guys to other leaders in the Body of Christ or other people, not always leaders, almost always I would say, "You want to meet this prophetic man or these prophetic men?"

Almost always over the years they would say nervously, "Ah, you mean right now? Today?"

I would say, "Yeah, yeah. I could have him come over in the next half hour."

"Ah, are you sure? Ae you sure?" They just go through this kind of momentary fear.

I remember when Allen Hood—he loves to tell the story—picked up one of these men from the airport. He says, "I was scared to death, I was repenting of everything I could possibly think of." He was only maybe in his twenties. He was just terrified picking up one of these prophetic guys. But so often the prophetic word is positive.

Well anyway, verse 5, Samuel the prophet said, "Yeah, I come peaceably. I have come to offer a sacrifice to the Lord." Again it is in context to a recommitting of themselves to the Lord and to His purposes. "We are going to offer the animal and then we are going to have a feast afterwards, so sanctify yourself." There were various ritual things that the elders would do. Then he went to Jesse.

I mean Jesse must have been thinking, "How do you know my name? How do you know my name?"

The prophet could have said, "Well, the Lord told me your name directly.

I have seen that over the years a number of times—I mean I have seen it I would say well over 100 times. I do not mean three or four times, but many, many times—where the Lord spoke the name of a person ahead of time without the prophetic person knowing who that person was. The Lord does these kinds of things even today. I know that some of you are very aware of that.

III. THE LORD CORRECTED SAMUEL'S VIEW OF THE NEW KING (1 SAM. 16:6-11)

A. Samuel went to Bethlehem, but without knowing all the details of God's will.

⁶So 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."⁸ Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."¹⁰ Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."¹¹ 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.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here.” (1 Sam. 16:6-11)

They go to the feast. They get to Jesse’s house, and again Jesse has his eight sons. The sons are all called to the dinner, seven of them, but not the youngest one we know. Little Davy, the peewee, the little guy, is out doing the menial task of taking care of the sheep. So, verse 6, they come to Jesse’s house. When they arrived, they were still preparing to eat the meal because it takes quite a while to kill the animal and get it ready.

So they call Eliab, the oldest son. Samuel thinks, “This is clearly the one.” I mean he should have known better! He was a seasoned prophet! The Lord told him—remember back in verse 1 He had said, “Now do not do anything until I tell you. I have very specific person in mind, and even the way I am going to show you is going to highlight a truth about how I establish My people and what kind of God I am.”

So the Lord said to Samuel, verse 7, “No, do not look at his appearance. Do not look at his stature. I have not chosen him.”

Now Eliab was very much like Saul. He was tall, dark, and handsome for real, and he just looked good. The prophet thought, “Hey man, what a cool guy! Look, he has that confidence and all of those physical abilities.”

The Lord says, “No, we already did that before, remember, with Saul. Twenty-five years, it has been a disaster.” Not that tall, dark, and handsome is bad. Guys, that is not a put-down, and girls, you can still go for that guy. Okay. The Lord says, “That is not how I am picking a man. I do not anoint somebody because of their externals.” That is good news, for the Lord does not evaluate in the way that man sees or the way that man evaluates. For man looks or evaluates the outward appearance, but the Lord evaluates the heart.

See the enemy wants you to see yourself through the lens of what you are just in the flesh: your abilities, how popular you are, how gifted you are. The enemy wants you to evaluate your life based on your externals: your physical beauty, your gifting, your intelligence, your popularity, your financial status. He wants to get you to evaluate others that way because if you evaluate yourself that way you will constantly be in fear and condemnation. If you evaluate others that way, you will be in criticism against them all the time. The enemy wants you to see yourself differently. He wants you to see others through the flesh. The enemy even wants you to see the enemy through the flesh. We will see Goliath in the next session. All of Israel saw Goliath on Goliath’s terms, not on God’s terms.

But if I can see myself through God’s eyes, then I have a much better position to see you through God’s eyes, and then I am in a much better position to see the enemy attacking me through God’s eyes. That shift is radical. It is not a small thing, and it does not happen really quickly. Then we see our own ministry and the purpose of our ministry through God’s eyes, not through what it does for us.

So God says, “No, no, it is not the oldest son, not the tall, dark, handsome, popular son, the favorite of the family.”

Verse 8, so Samuel looks at the second son, Abinadab. Samuel thinks, “Ah, it must be the second one. That makes sense.”

The Lord says, “No, Samuel, not him.”

Then verse 9, Jesse makes the third son come. The Lord says, “No, not him.” Samuel is about to pour the oil and the Lord says, “No, no, no.” All seven sons pass before him, and every time the Lord says, “No.” Again, the reason the Lord would not give him David’s name on the front end is because very way this thing unfolds in itself is a message about how God sees His people and what God values.

Samuel said to Jesse, “This is a really bad problem.” Samuel went 0 for 7. You know Samuel’s reputation. He had been prophesying for many years, for decades even, from before Saul. Saul has been king for twenty-five years, so add you know some more years onto that. It says in 1 Samuel that none of Samuel’s words were ever false, that he was 100 percent accurate. So he sits there a little bit perplexed. He thinks, “It is none of them. I missed it. I do not know what just happened.” Honestly I don’t really know if he thought that!

Verse 11, he asked, “Are all of your sons here?” As in, “Is there any chance that at this most dramatic moment, this most important moment in your family’s history, you did not invite one?”

Jesse the father said, “Well, actually, there is one more, the youngest, Davy. There he is.” The reason that it is important, “There he is,” because he was within view of these seven sons and the feast and the gathering. He is within view of them! I mean he is right there down the way just working with the sheep, again a menial task. I mean for minimum wage somebody could have easily covered that for him at this most historic moment in their family life!

Samuel said, “Bring him. I will not sit down until he comes here.” Do you know what I love about this verse? God’s database is always up-to-date. Here is this little guitar player, a teenager in a little village outside of nowhere, forgotten, not in a big mega-ministry. Nobody is paying attention to him. When God sends the prophet to the little village, the family did not even let him come, but God still sees the young man.

Beloved, when it dawns on us, when it connects with us, that God actually sees us, there is the power to overcome fear right there. I am talking about the fear of being left behind, the fear of not being recognized, the fear of not getting what we deserve, the fear of not getting the promotions. I mean there is so much anxiety in the Body of Christ. It is very natural; I am not saying this as some big negative. I mean it is negative, but it is so normal. I have done it in my day over the years. I understand it when we are trying to get attention so that we can get the promotion and the open door.

Beloved, the Lord knew where David was, and He said, “You are not going to forward until the kid is here.” The Lord says, “I know whom I have chosen. I can go out of My way to get that young guy into the place where I want him.”

- B. **The LORD does not see as man sees:** Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the decisions and intentions of the heart. This is one of the most important statements in Scripture.

Just to emphasize this again. God said to Samuel to tell David that He wanted his foundation built around this truth: God do not see and evaluate like men do. “Tell David, tell the young man, that I want him to build his entire kingship, his ministry, around the value that I called him **for Me** and I do not evaluate him like others evaluate him. I am different than others.”

God looks at the decisions that we make. God looks at both the intentions of our heart and our decisions. So not just our decisions, but also our intentions. The glorious thing: He looks at that far more than He looks at your ability. As many preachers have said, “God is not looking for your ability, but your availability.” He is looking for the “yes” in your heart. You can lack all kinds of gifting, positioning, and networking and not have the money and the resource and all these things.

The Lord says, “If you make right decisions in your heart to obey Me and even when you are struggling you are re-signing back up, if your intention is to obey Me,” the Lord says, “I can find you. That is what I am after.”

You can get the leader of the biggest business or the mega-ministry or the TV or the magazine guy or whatever, the social media guy to set you center stage. Beloved, you have not gained even one step forward in the kingdom and reality if God did not set that up. Folks have so much angst and anxiety about getting the attention of people

and getting that door open. They get through that door and it is not even the will of God, because there is human networking that makes a lot of things happen. Then they do not have grace for it. They are just constantly under pressure because they do not know if God did it or they kind of made it happen themselves.

When you know God did it, you can rest in the storm. When you know God put you in place then when people are attacking you, you know you are solid, you are going to be there. If you are not sure God put you there, but you got there with a little bit of manipulation, a little bit of clever networking, you never know if you can stay in place.

This is probably not the best time to bring this up, but I will anyway. I probably will not tell the story just right, but some years ago I met a couple of ladies who were on the cover of magazines—like beauty queen-type people—a couple of them. I went to their house and they had their magazine covers, and they were beautiful, just beautiful. I was talking to them and here is what struck me about the few of them there together. What struck me is how incredible fearful they were about losing their beauty. Here they were on a handful of magazines, and they were so preoccupied at age twenty-two and twenty-three of losing it. I mean they have fifty-eight, sixty years to go, and they are absolutely fixated in fear. They spent all of their energy getting there, and now they are frozen in fear—when they get quiet on the inside—about losing it already. I thought, “Wow, that does not look like liberty or promotion to me. That looks like bondage.” I am not picking on beauty queens because I have seen the same thing in the sports world, the economic world, and the ministry world. Here is the point: people put all this energy to get there, and then they live in fear to make sure they stay there. That is a horrible way to spend your few years on the earth! I hope that came off right.

- C. **The LORD looks at the heart:** People measure themselves and others by *externals* (performance, gifting, achievement, money, position, etc.), while God measures by *internals* (the goals, intentions, decisions, and movements of the heart toward God).

The Lord looks at the heart. People measure themselves by their externals. God measures us by the internals.

1. David’s understanding of God’s heart was formed by the truths of how God chose him, as revealed to Samuel by God. This knowledge dynamically affected David’s view of himself.

David’s understanding of God’s heart for him was formed by this ordination service. David apparently thought, “Well, if God found me when everybody else overlooked me, wow, that is security point number one! If God saw me when I do not have all of these great royal abilities, while I am a teenager and I have not developed my skills, but He still chose me, then He looks at my heart and knows I love Him, and that is what He wants most.” David started doing the math and thought, “I can do this. I can live this way. This works for me.”

2. David saw himself as God’s beloved (Ps. 60:5), as the apple of God’s eye (Ps. 17:8), as one in whom God delighted (Ps. 18:19), and as one treated with gentleness by God (Ps. 18:35).

You just read the psalms and it is clear that David saw himself as God’s beloved, as the apple of God’s eye, as the one God delighted in, as the one God treated with gentleness and on and on and on. David did not see himself as the only one like that, but he saw himself that way. How do you see yourself before the Lord?

3. The Lord does not evaluate His people with accusation as others do. God’s paradigm for evaluating life is different than man’s—God defines His people by the intentions of their heart. He sees our heart motives (1 Cor. 4:5) and our inner qualities (Ps. 29:2).

Because of the nature of His heart and because of what the cross of Christ accomplished in His resurrection for us, God defines His people by the intentions of their heart and by who they are in Christ.

4. Sometimes we look at *negative externals* (our lack of gifting or opportunity or position) and wrongly conclude that we have no future in God's purpose.

It is very easy to be tempted by looking at the negative externals, like our lack of gifting. We can feel that if we do not have the right gifting, then we are never going to be used. The Lord would say, "Yeah, I will use you the way I designed you. You will touch My heart, and I will touch your heart. I will reward you the same for your faithfulness, not by your impact. I will reward you for your responsiveness."

We look at our lack of opportunity, our lack of position in the Body of Christ and conclude, "Well, I guess God passed me by."

He says, "No, no, no, no! I will use you as a vessel in the kingdom, I will use you as a vessel in exactly the way that pleases Me. It will touch your heart, and we will be connected together, and you will touch those few people. I will remember even the cup of cold water you gave in My name forever, I will reward you and remember it. It will move Me."

- D. **Do not look at his appearance:** The Lord told Samuel not to look at *externals*—performance, skills, accomplishments, position, wealth, failures, etc. He chose an uneducated farm boy as His anointed.

God thundered to Samuel, seven sons in a row, "No, not him! Not him! Not him! The fourth one—not him! The fifth one—not him! The sixth one—not him! The seventh one—not him!" He thunders, "I do not look at men's externals; I do not choose in light of that."

The Holy Spirit is thundering that word to the Church today, "Get your eyes off your externals and get your eyes on how I see you and what My heart is like." We can enjoy the journey together if we lock into this reality.

- E. David found his primary identity (his sense of value and success) in who he was in his relationship with God. He measured his success in life by how much he grew in grace and to the degree which he walked in obedient love for God and meekness toward people.
- F. **Leadership lesson:** God chooses differently than man—He esteems unknown people in unknown places for His purposes.
- G. **Leadership lesson:** We must not choose people who have great gifts but lack a servant spirit. Conversely, do not abandon your calling just because you have not yet had opportunity to walk in it.

IV. SAMUEL ANOINTS DAVID AS THE NEW KING OF ISRAEL (1 SAM. 16:11-13)

- A. The Spirit of the Lord came on David (16:13) as it had once rested on Saul (10:6, 10; 11:6). God worked in David's life inspiring his heart and strengthening his body to do courageous acts. The Hebrew word *ruach* means breath, wind, and Spirit—"it is the invisible hand of God that moves in the visible world"

¹²So 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)

1 Samuel 16:12, so Jesse the father “sent and brought David in.” I mean, he is just right there down the way. He was ruddy; that means he had a red hair and a fair complexion with bright eyes. He was a good-looking little guy. The Lord said, “Anoint him. This is the one.”

I can just picture all seven brothers, “Davy? Are you kidding? Why would God choose him?” It was not obvious to anybody that this was the person whose heart was moving God’s heart.

So Samuel took the oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. God wanted his brothers to know that God evaluates people differently than they do. We will see in our next session that Eliab the oldest brother was a little jealous and bitter at David about this. In the next chapter, 1 Samuel 17, Eliab rebukes David and insults him. He had this unsettled issue about this situation.

The Lord, through the prophet, is saying, “I want all of you to know this is the basis of how I choose people. They may not have the beauty or the money or the gifting or the external appearance or presentation in the way that somebody else does, but their heart responds to Me. They get who I am,” says the Lord. “They understand I am choosing them for My sake, not for their sake, and that moves My heart.”

- B. Some scholars suggest that when a leader anointed someone, they were *pledging themselves* to the anointed one. For example, when the elders of Judah (2 Sam. 2) or of Israel anointed David (2 Sam. 5:3), they were making a commitment to David. So when God chose someone to be anointed as king, God Himself was showing His commitment to that new king.

Now this is interesting. One of the principles that has been promoted in several commentaries I have read is that there was an understanding that the leader who anointed the person was making a pledge to that person. So when the elders of Judah anointed David in 2 Samuel—we will get there in a little bit, in some weeks down the road—when the elders of Judah anointed David, the elders of Judah were saying, “We are committed to you, David.” There was an understood commitment to the one who was anointed by the ones who were doing the anointing. When they poured the oil, they were saying, “We are with you.”

Then the elders of Israel, who were a different group from the elders of Judah, were saying the same things when they anointed David, “We will be loyal to you.”

Well, on this occasion it was by the command of God. What was happening was God saying, “David, I am committed to you. I will be loyal to you in this relationship.”

I do not know if David understood that for a while, but it became one of the pillar truths of David’s life. He understood the Lord was saying, “I am the One that is committed to you, like the elders of Judah and the elders of Israel and the statement they made when they anointed you.” That was a legitimate anointing, but that is why this anointing was different than those. The Lord was saying, “I Myself am committed to you. I am making that statement to you.”

- C. **Leadership lessons:** God knows where we are, and His timing is never late. God needs no help in locating “His Davids.” We don’t have to strive to get attention from the people in charge.

One of the leadership lessons—and there are so many that we are not identifying because of so much territory we are going to cover in 1 and 2 Samuel—God’s timing is never too late. You are never out of the way. All of the leaders of the ministry, all of the leaders of your family, all the leaders of the business, the marketplace, all the leaders on the team, all the worship leaders, may all overlook you, but if God has chosen you, just hang in there. Just hang in there. God is never late; He gets it. You can rest assured of what is happening.

1. Do not confuse offering your service with insisting on recognition or receiving a position of honor. Some people misunderstand this principle and wait to be asked to serve. Scripture teaches us to be diligent in serving, yet without insisting on receiving recognition or honor.

I have found over the years of pastoring that a lot of folks misapply this principle and they get into this place of “peace” that God will choose them when He wants. This is in relationship to service because God loves everybody equally. There is equal significance, there is equal acceptance, is what I am trying to say, but there is a varying significance of responsibility. Every believer has equal acceptance before the Father’s heart, everybody is loved the same, but we have various significance in terms of our roles of impact. God does not reward us on the last day by our impact. He rewards us by the response of our heart. Anyway, I have seen people who get real excited about this truth and actually misapply it, and they become very passive. So when there is the need for service, they sit at the back of the room and say, “Well, I would do it if God called me out.”

The Lord says, “No, I am not going to send a prophet to get you to serve.” David was serving diligently without the aid of a prophet calling him out. Now you do not want to promote yourself and push when that someone is not giving you the promotion you want; do not insist on it and become bitter and then begin to speak against them. But when somebody asks for someone to serve, go and serve. Volunteer. Promote yourself to serve, but if they do not recognize you and raise you to the next position, do not resist them and do not have a bad attitude.

So you can be aggressively knocking on the doors, but when the door does not open, do not insist on it. You say, “Well, the Lord’s will be done.” You do not get bitter. You do not get argumentative. You do not complain against that leader behind their back. So this principle is applied in the context of not insisting on promotion. Do not apply this wrongly and draw back to not serve until a prophet calls you out. Don’t say, “Well, I am here, and if they knock on my door, then I will serve.” No, serve diligently! There are a hundred Bible verses about serving diligently. Just do not demand promotion and do not demand the recognition that you want. Serve in the lowest spots and keep on serving like David did. Let the promotions come, and let the promotions go, because David was promoted, then demoted, promoted, demoted, but he continued to serve in each season of his life.

2. When we feel the need to measure how much people value or honor our work, it can easily result in complaining. When we know that God sees us, then we can serve with a free spirit.

V. DAVID ACCEPTED IN THE ROYAL COURT (1 SAM. 16:14-23)

- A. Note the parallel statements: the Spirit *rested on* David (16:13) and *departed from* Saul (16:14). The theme “the Lord was with David” occurs four times (16:18; 18:12, 14, 28). David delivered Saul from spiritual oppression and, later, Israel from the oppressive Philistine enemy, Goliath the giant.

¹⁴The Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.

¹⁵And Saul’s servants said to him, “Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. ¹⁶Let 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.” ¹⁷So Saul said to his servants, “Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me.” (1 Sam. 16:14-17)

*Now it is probably a couple years later. We do not know for sure. I mean it is not ten or twenty years but it is probably a couple years later or so. We go the second part of 1 Samuel 16. We are noticing there are two parallel statements which are really in a strong, obvious contrast: the Holy Spirit **resting on** David and the Holy Spirit **departing from** Saul. You cannot miss the contrast. The theme of David’s story is repeated a number of times, that the Lord is with David. We see it emphasized four times in David’s story in 1 Samuel.*

Well, it starts off as David is anointed. Now here he has been anointed king, but he goes back to mowing the lawns; he goes back to the menial task. He is the little brother serving at home, but anointed with the Spirit on him. I mean the power of God is on him in a whole other measure. Now every believer has the Holy Spirit, but there are those moments where there is an unusual manifestation of power that happens on various occasions. These manifestations of power were beginning to happen.

We will find out in the next session that when a lion attacked the sheep, David, a teenage boy, rose up, grabbed the lion, and killed him. He was fearless. David began to sing songs and he felt the presence of God and the power of God in his singing. He did not have much of an audience, I do not believe, in a little town out in Nowheresville in the backside of Nowhere. He was feeling the presence of the power of God in a new way.

- B. ***The Spirit departed from Saul:*** At the beginning of his reign, about 25 years earlier, the Spirit had come on Saul (10:6, 10; 11:6). Saul's character gradually deteriorated. He went from being a national hero to despondent and melancholic, and then an angry, murderous tyrant.

Verse 14, the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul. He remained king another ten or fifteen years, but without power. What a horrible position! It was not only that the positive dimension—the Holy Spirit, that unusual anointing—was lifted, but another thing happened, another condition far worse—a depressing, distressing spirit troubled him.

Different translations of the Bible use different words. He was tormented with this dark, distressing spirit. I think that is a fair word—distressing—but you could put a number of words in there. He had this deep, melancholic depression that would come over him. It was terrorizing. It was not just his natural personality. There are a lot of people that just naturally have melancholy in their personality. This is far beyond that. This is a deep, heavy darkness that would set upon him. It would trouble him, and he could not get not free of it.

- C. ***A distressing spirit:*** The Lord allowed Saul to be demonically oppressed as an expression of divine judgment on Saul's stubborn rebellion. His servants rightly regarded this as punishment from God.

Saul's servant said, "Saul, we are going to be straight with you: this is from God." I mean we know it was the enemy's hand being used, but God allowed the enemy to rush in because of Saul's stubbornness, because of Saul's resistance to God.

Somebody might ask, "You mean if you resist God you get a distressing spirit?" Well, if you are an anointed leader in an unusual way like Saul and set in place by prophets like Saul, and then you cast off that remarkable privilege, there is a judgment, there is a corresponding reality, that happens. I mean you cannot get anointed and then decide after you have been anointed—I am talking about in an unusual way—to just cast it aside. Of course every believer is anointed in the general sense. But just to cast off that leadership anointing and just start doing your own thing, it is like the preacher said, "New levels new devils." You are in a new sphere; you are in a new level of usefulness in the kingdom. You just cannot disregard the Lord's leadership and cast it off in a stubborn way. I mean there are weakness, yes, but there is not this persistent resisting of the Lord.

They said, "Saul, it is from God. God is allowing this to happen." It is a judgment is what that means. It is the enemy that is actually causing the torment, but God is allowing it as a judgment because Saul so disregarded the high privileges God gave him. Beloved, Jesus said with His own lips, "To him that is given much, much is required." That principle is in place right here.

- D. **Seek out a skillful harpist:** Saul’s servants urged him to commission them to find a musician to play for him during his attacks. They rightly believed this would bring relief from Saul’s oppression. So Saul ordered them to search for someone who could play well. Anointed music was known to release the activity of the Spirit (1 Sam. 10:5; 2 Kgs. 3:15).

Verse 16, his servants said, “Let our master”—talking about Saul, Saul you are our master, you are our leader—“command us, commission us. We will go out and find a skillful player on the harp. It shall be that when this player plays, this oppressive spirit that torments you”—it comes on for hours at a time—“that thing will lift off you” when the anointing of the Spirit related to prophetic music is in place.

Beloved, the Lord is raising up this David spirit as oppression is going to fill the nations. God already has a preemptive strike! He is raising up anointed singers and musicians, houses of prayers. More than houses of prayers, anointed music and singers and musicians all over the Body of Christ, whether they are involved in a specific house of prayer or not, they are leading in prayer, they are leading in worship, and God is cultivating this whole reality as a preemptive strike towards the oppression the enemy is about to vomit on planet earth across the nations. God already has a remedy and part of the remedy is already in place. He is raising up these Davidic singers that will cause the spirit that is tormenting even the insane king to leave and that king to come to peace. I believe the rulers of the earth, whether they are mayors or governors or senators or presidents, we are going to find leaders of the earth who are going to find their refreshment through the prophetic singers in the days to come. I mean they are already doing it, but I mean in a far greater level.

Verse 17, Saul said, “Well, if you can find that guy, go find him. That would be great.”

- E. One of Saul’s servants already knew of David’s skill in music (16:18). In other words, God opened doors to the royal court for David; he did not even have to try to push the door open.

¹⁸One 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.”¹⁹Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, “Send me your son David, who is with the sheep.”²⁰And Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by his son David to Saul. (1 Sam. 16:18-20)

1. **Skillful in playing:** David was an accomplished musician, anointed even for Saul’s comfort.
2. **Mighty man of valor:** David was both brave and successful in facing danger. His exploits of killing the lion and the bear justified him being called a mighty, valiant man.
3. **Man of war:** David may have fought marauding Philistines on occasion while tending sheep.
4. **Prudent in speech:** David was skilled in speaking and, therefore, in building relationships.
5. **Handsome:** As part of being handsome, David would have been in good physical condition.
6. **The LORD is with him:** The presence of God was evident in David’s life.

Verse 18, one of the servants said, “Hey, I already know a guy. He lives in Bethlehem. He is this young guy, great musician. He has been playing his instrument for the last number of years, I mean hours a day, and the word is getting out about him.” Now the assumption is that this is a couple years after he has been anointed. We do not know for sure, but that is what most agree.

He was skillful. That fifteen-year-old has been staying with his instrument, and he is developing in skill. Beloved, there is a place to be skillful. The skill is not the anointing and the anointing is not the skill, but the two can go together. When we learn our craft, when we excel in the area that God points out to us, the Lord will use that. The Lord is not dependent on it, but He will use it.

He said, “This man is a mighty man of valor. We have heard some stories about things that he does. We heard that this lion attacked the sheep and he killed the lion. I mean this teenager did it.” The reputation about David was spreading just through the talk of the towns, the little villages. There was an obvious anointing of the Holy Spirit on him in his music, on the songs he was singing.

The servant said, “He is prudent in his speech.” That is, he knows how to talk. He knows how to speak with grace with the right tone and right positives. I do not mean flattery, but the cynicism, sarcasm, the bitterness of speech that so fills the earth, David did not have that on him. He had a clean spirit in his speech. He spoke wholesome words. He found the redemptive truths, and he magnified them. He was not sarcastic or caustic or critical. He knew how to talk when he was bothered, instead of writing people off or putting them down. He saw how God sees people, and his speech flowed out of that.

“He is a remarkable young man,” said the servant. David is maybe eighteen, nineteen, twenty by now; it is hard to say. He said, “The Lord is with him.” The Lord is with him. There is a presence on his life. I mean when he sings, when he talks, the way he carries himself, he has this confidence, this interaction with the Lord, that is obvious. He is different in the way he carries himself.

- F. **Send me your son David:** Hearing of David’s outstanding abilities, Saul asked Jesse to send David to him. David impressed Saul, and the king requested him to stay permanently.

Verse 19—I love this—Saul sent a message to Jesse, “Send your son.” He was still mowing the lawn. He is still doing the menial tasks. He is loving God, saying, “I will be king when I am king. I will be whatever when whatever. I am connected to God. I know how God sees me. I know how God feels about me. I love Him. I am not worried about making it happen.” He was still with the sheep with all of these dynamics happening.

- G. **David stood before him:** To stand before the king (v 21) means to enter into his service (Gen 41:46). David became one of Saul’s armor bearers after being accepted into Saul’s court.

²¹So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armor bearer. ²²Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, “Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight.” ²³And 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. 16:21-23)

1. Saul unwittingly invited his successor into his inner court. It was God’s purpose for David to spend a season at the court; therefore, the Lord inclined Saul’s heart toward David.
2. Here we see the workings of God’s hand. The king’s heart is in the Lord’s hand, and He turns it according to His will (Prov. 21:1). David wrote of this truth when exhorting people to “commit their way to Lord” and to rest in the Lord, patiently trusting Him to bring His will to pass in their lives (Ps. 37:5-7).

So he went and joined Saul. Saul loved him, and it was successful. You can read the rest of the chapter on your own here. David would go and play for Saul, and he would be at in the royal court with the king for seasons, for

different periods of time, then he would go back to his father. Then he would come and play again. It was not very far away. The distance was not so far. David would come when the king was tormented and play for him. He was one of his armor bearers. Undoubtedly the king had many servants, many different people who were serving him at different capacities.

David would come and go. I love this: this willingness to be faithful in menial things. Beloved, Jesus said, “On the last day, I will commend those who were faithful in very little things, who gave their word and did what they said when nobody was watching because they knew that God cared and they kept their word.” Beloved, when you can do that in your family life, if you can do that in your friendships, when you can do that in your work life, in your ministry—you are working in your ministry; they often will go together—in your school, if you can actually do what you say you will do without anybody making sure and nobody looking, you have the heart like David.

Amen, let’s stand.

Lord, we say thank You that Your eyes are on Your people.

I want to lead you in prayer for just a minute where you are saying in your heart, “Lord, I want to be this kind of person.” Young man, young woman, old man, old woman, you could be in your eighties. It is not too late to be like David in your eighties. Let’s go for it. It is never too late. I just want you to just talk to the Lord for a moment.

The Lord says, “Do you know My eyes are on you? Do you know that the appointment I have for you nobody can stop it? Do you know that if it is delayed I am working on your behalf? Do you know that even if you are not recognized the way you think you should be, that I am recognizing you? Do you know your usefulness to Me is not determined by your beauty or your popularity or which cool people are recognizing you? Do you know who you are? For thus says the Lord, ‘I have set the godly person apart for myself. That person for is Me and they will enjoy Me in the journey.’ This is the inheritance of the servants of the Lord.” Amen and amen.