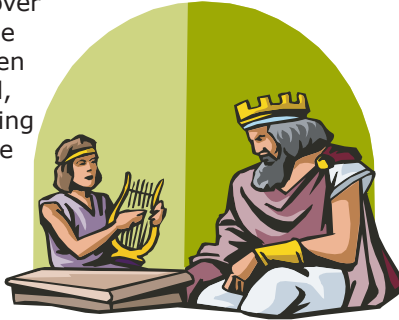




# God Chooses David to Be King

1 Samuel 16

God anointed Saul as King over His people, but Saul became proud and disobedient. When God wanted to replace Saul, He did not look for a new king the same way everyone else did. Instead, God looked at how a person really was on the inside. God saw that David was a man who loved and trusted Him.



## Day #1: The Right One

Can you think of a great gift that comes in a small package? Perhaps it is an MP3 player or a piece of jewelry. A married woman would most likely say that her favorite gift came in a very small box. It would be her engagement ring! There might be bigger boxes, and even fancier wrapping paper, but we would all agree that what is on the inside is the most important part of a gift.

The Lord gave His prophet, Samuel, an important job. The Lord sent him to the home of an Israelite man named Jesse. There, Samuel would anoint one of Jesse's eight sons as the next King of Israel. Which son would Samuel choose?

If Samuel were choosing by his own wisdom, it would be sort of like trying to choose the best gift just by looking at the size of the box and the color of the bow on top. But Samuel would not choose by his own wisdom. He would rely on God's wisdom. He would listen to God's voice.

† *The Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider how handsome or tall he is... I do not look at the things people look at. Man looks at how someone appears on the outside. **But I look at what is in the heart.**"*  
- 1 Samuel 16:7

People are sort of like wrapped up gifts. They come in all different sizes. Some look pretty fancy on the outside; some are more plain and simple. You can never tell what is on the inside by looking at the outside!

\* Which is more important to God? What is on the inside or on the outside of a person? Pray that God will help you to focus what is on the inside of people. What is the best way to get to know the inside of a person? (Talk to him or her, ask him questions about himself.)

## Day #2: God's Wisdom

The prophet Samuel listened carefully to God when Jesse brought out his sons. One by one, Jesse's sons came before Samuel. And one by one, God said, "I have not chosen him."

Samuel could have easily decided that the oldest son was the best choice. After all, in those days, the oldest son was almost always chosen to receive the blessing. Or he could have chosen the strongest son because a King should be a strong leader. But Samuel did not choose the son that looked the best. He listened to God because God's way is always the best way.

Finally, Jesse brought in his son, David. He was the youngest of eight sons. He was probably a teenager. He had the lowly job of taking care of the family's sheep. When he entered, the Lord told Samuel, "Get up and anoint him. He is the one." (1 Samuel 16:5) God had been looking at the hearts of these men. God said that David was a man after His own heart (1 Samuel 13:14). David loved and trusted the Lord.

Samuel obeyed the Lord. He poured oil over David to anoint him as the *future* King of Israel. He made the right choice because he depended on God's wisdom.

† *Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.* - Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT

\* Remember that you cannot trust in your own wisdom. In every decision you make, turn to God. You are not able to see all that God sees. His way is ALWAYS the best way. Pray to Him, read His word, and listen to the Holy Spirit, and you will always know what to do.

## Day #3: Look Inside

What words would you use to describe your mom or dad? What about your brothers or sisters?

How would you describe a new girl at school that you saw for just a few minutes? You might say, "She is the girl with green eyes and long brown hair." But when you describe someone that you know really well, such as your best friend, you would be more likely to say, "She is really funny, and she is really nice." The better we know someone, the more we look at what's on the *inside* of him or her.

### Day #3 continued:

God knows you better than anyone ever could. That's why, when He looks at you, He sees what is deep down inside of you. He knows how you feel, and what you hope for. He knows when you are happy, and He knows when you're afraid. God is able to look right past everything on the outside, the good things and the bad.



*Lord, You have seen what is in my heart. You know all about me. - Psalm 139:1*

God even knows what you think before you say it.

*Lord, even before I speak a word, you know all about it. - Psalm 139:4*

Anyone can see what is on the outside of you. Those who are close to you see some of what is on the inside. And only God knows your every thought and feeling.



God knows everything about you, and He loves you with an enormous love! The Bible says that God takes great delight in you and He even sings over you! (Zephaniah 3:17) There is nothing you could do to stop His loving you.

## Day #4: King in Training

David did not become King right away. In fact, he went back to tending his father's sheep. It would be almost ten years before David would become King. God would make David the King at just the right time.

God's Spirit had left King Saul, and now Saul had an evil spirit that made him upset and fearful. Saul's servants wanted to calm him in some way. They decided to find someone who could play soothing music for Saul. One of the servants had heard David play the harp. The servant said, "The Lord is with him." So Saul sent for David.



*David went to Saul and began to serve him. Saul liked him very much. David became one of the men who carried Saul's armor.*

*Saul sent a message to Jesse. It said, "Let David stay here. I want him to serve me. I'm pleased with him." - 1 Samuel 16:21-22*

David stayed and served Saul in Saul's palace. He played music whenever Saul was upset by the evil spirit. David became one of Saul's closest servants.

Before this happened, David spend his days on the hillsides with a bunch of sheep. Now the young shepherd was placed in the presence of the King. This way he could learn how the King ruled the nation of

### Day #4 continued:

Israel. This was God's amazingly clever way of training David to be King one day.



Just as God had big plans for David, He has big plans for you too! He will always give you what you need to do His will (Philippians 1:6). All He asks us to do is love Him and trust Him! (Mark 12:30, Proverbs 3:5)

## Day #5: Ordinary People

God chose a simple shepherd boy to become the leader of His people. This is similar to the choice that Jesus made when He picked simple fishermen to be His disciples and bring the Gospel message to the entire world. God is an expert at doing great things through ordinary people!



*One day Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee. There He saw two brothers. They were Simon Peter and his brother Andrew. They were throwing a net into the lake. They were fishermen. "Come. Follow Me," Jesus said. "I will make you fishers of people."*

*At once they left their nets and followed Him.*

*Going on from there, He saw two other brothers. They were James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee. As they were preparing their nets, Jesus called out to them.*

*Right away they left the boat and their father and followed Jesus. - Matthew 4:18-22*

Jesus could have chosen men who were wealthier, more important, or more educated. But He chose common fishermen, and even an unpopular tax collector. Certainly there were men who looked better on the outside - and who didn't smell like fish!

The Pharisees were rich and had been educated by the finest teachers. Jesus said that they wore fancy robes on the outside, but on the inside they were full of selfishness and greed (Matthew 23:5, 25). He said that their hearts were far away from Him (Matthew 15:8).

Just the opposite, the disciples were ready to leave everything they owned to follow Jesus. They had faith in Jesus. They trusted His teaching, and they believed He was the Messiah (Mark 8:29).



If you ever feel like you are just an ordinary person, let this encourage you: God wants to do great things through a person just like you! He doesn't value what is on the outside. He is looking for a heart that trusts in Him.