

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF DAVID

PART I

STUDY NUMBER ONE

1 Samuel 16:1-23

If I were to take two verses of scripture to summarize the life of David it would have to be Psalm 34:18-19.

Psalm 34:18-19

“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.”

Probably one of the greatest writings of David is the first Psalm.

Psalm 1

“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither, and in whatever he does, he prospers.

The wicked are not so, but they are like chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore, the wicked will not stand in

the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.”

David, the greatest of Israel’s kings, is one of the most fascinating characters in the whole of Scripture.

The study of his life is so instructive, whether we consider him as A MAN or A KING.

At different times he was:

Poor and rich
Hated and beloved
Persecuted and honored
Obscure and prominent
A sinner and a worshiper

David was a man who put God’s will ahead of his own selfish desires.

For the most part, David’s life was a life of obedience to the will of God.

When he failed and sinned, he turned in repentance, and threw himself on God’s mercy.

David is well-known in history and modern society. Christians have idealized him, Hollywood has made movies about his life, and artists have sculptured him. Many, many parents are proud to name

their sons after him.

I want to give you an idea of how difficult it is to prepare a series of messages on the life of David.

When you get ready to study the life of Abraham there are 14 chapters.

When you get ready to study the life of Joseph there are 14 chapters.

When you get ready to study the life of Jacob there are 11
and in the life of Elijah there are 9.

But when you get ready to study the life of David there are 66 Bible chapters covering his biography.

There are 59 references to him in the New Testament. Edwin Young points out, "More is known about David than perhaps any other biblical personality.

At the beginning of this series on the life of David, what do you know about David?
Probably you could speak of his greatest victory and his greatest defeat.

You might also add, that David one time slew a giant.

And another time he had an affair with Uriah's wife and ended up in an act of adultery and murdered her husband.

And that's what most people know about David.

And some might even write him off.

But there are 66 chapters in the Bible about David's life.

It's really hard to form an opinion until all the facts are in.

So let's allow David to speak for himself as we study his life.

His trail is filled with loneliness.

It has been a difficult life.

You are going to see tragedy,
you are going to see broken dreams,
you are going to see a life that is broken in pieces
but he knows where to take the broken pieces.

David always knew where to run with the pieces.
And God put him together and used him again
and again and again.

The nice thing about the Bible is
it doesn't wrap its saints in cellophane

and wash off all the dirt.

It just pictures them like they are.
So you and I as sinful men and women
can effectively relate to the way they lived.

Almost every one of the books that you read
on the life of David
has a byline on it.
The byline is: *“David, a man after God’s own heart.”*

Finally, I asked myself the question,
“What is a man after God’s own heart?”
How would you interpret that?

The Beatitudes in Matthew 5 is a good argument
for the individual who is the
man after God’s own heart.

For instance,
blessed are the poor in spirit,
blessed are those who mourn, the peacemakers,
those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
the pure in heart, the gentle.
They are the people who are characterized
as people after God’s own heart.

How was David a man after God’s own heart?

We can note from the Psalms that David had a:

BELIEVING heart
He had a TRUTHFUL heart.
He had an OPEN heart.
He had an EXPECTANT heart.
He had a heart that REMEMBERED GOD'S LAW.
He had a REPENTANT heart.
He had a HUMBLE heart.
He had a DEPENDENT heart.

Let's place David in the historical context
in which he lived in order to appreciate
the times that we are going to be studying.

After the sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, God
promised that there would be a seed.

God made an unconditional covenant with
Abraham in Genesis 12, a covenant that involved
a SEED and a LAND.

These promises were passed on to Isaac and then to Jacob,
and then through the tribe of Judah.
God said that the nation Israel
would dwell in a land, that was not theirs for 430 years. This
period of time began when Jacob and his family went down to
be reunited with his son Joseph.

The children of Israel then made their exodus
from the land of Egypt under the leadership of Moses.
They came up to Kadesh-Barnea, to shores of the

River Jordan;

**and after sending spies into the land,
they came to the decision that they could not
go in and take the land.**

**Out of the 12 spies that had gone in, Joshua and Caleb were
the only two who believed that they could go in, and
recommended that they do so immediately.**

**For the next 40 years the children of Israel
wandered in the wilderness;
and after that generation died, so did Moses.
It was under Joshua's leadership
that the children of Israel went in, to possess the land.**

**In the book of Judges, we see several cycles
of the people doing evil again in the sight of the Lord.
They are then taken into captivity
by some foreign power for a period of time.**

**And then God graciously raises up a judge
to deliver the people of Israel;
and there is a period of prosperity for a brief time before it
happens once again:**

**When the book of Judges ends,
we have that awful summary in Judges 21:25 "Everyone did
that which was right in his own eyes."**

Out of this particular time period of the judges comes the story of the book of Ruth.
It is like the great gigantic spotlight of God just focuses on the city of Bethlehem.

The focus has been on Bethlehem one other time because that is where Rachel died
after she gave birth to Benjamin in Genesis.

And as the focus comes back on Bethlehem there is a family by the name of Elimelech and Naomi with two boys who have to go down to Moab to live for a period of time because the famine is terrible.

And while they are there the two boys meet two Moabitiss girls by the names of Ruth and Orpah.
They marry.

But a plague came through and killed all three of the men
so the three women were left as widows.

Naomi says I want to go back home.
And she goes back to Bethlehem but Ruth and Orpah want to go too.

She tries to discourage them and Orpah does stay but Ruth goes with her.

Ruth feels a responsibility to Naomi
and so she goes out to try to find a job
and she ends up working in Boaz's field.

The significance of that is Boaz
is a direct descendant of Abraham.

At the wheat harvest Ruth kind of
proposes marriage by curling up at his feet.

That is the way you communicated it, in those days.

The next morning Boaz understood the signals
and she was a beautiful young lady.

And through the purchase of the kinsman rights,
Boaz was able to marry Ruth.

The reason I told you that story is
Ruth and Boaz had a little boy by the name of Obed.

Obed when he grew up
had a little boy by the name of Jesse.

And Jesse when he grew up
had eight sons and his youngest was David.

And 28 generations later, in that very city
because Micah said it would happen in Micah 5:2,

in that city of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ was born!

Now Samuel is the last of the judges
and he is also
the first of the prophets.

During his time the spiritual temperature of the people is
lousy.

And the feeling among the people is
we do not like this judge business.

And Samuel really takes personal offense to it
but the Lord says, do not worry about it,
they are rejecting me and not you.

If they want to have a king and be like everybody else then
give them a king, let them have one.

It is then that Samuel must go
and anoint Saul to be king.

There are two tragic things about that.

He is anointing a man to take his place
and that takes a lot of maturity.

And he also has to be supportive.

But there is another thing,
Saul, as soon as he became king,

acted and ruled as though Samuel
did not even exist.

He tried on numerous occasions
to make life very difficult for Samuel.

I share that with you
because of what we are going to see
in today's study.

Now at this point, Saul has ruled for quite a few years,
he has been rejected, and in 1 Samuel 16
the wheels turn and the new king
is going to be anointed.

You are not going to get to hear David speak today.
He says his first words next week.
Today there are just two things
that are going to happen.

The three key characters today are
Saul, Samuel, and David.

The next thing I have to do
is to put a temperament trait on David.

I am convinced that Bible characters
will come alive when you understand
their temperament
because you can predict

what they are going to do
and the scripture is incredibly consistent
when you understand a person's temperament.

Tim LaHaye wrote a book called *Transformed Temperaments*
and also *Spirit-Controlled Temperament*.

It is the thesis of most psychologists
that all of us are either one
or a blend of two temperaments.

There are four major temperaments.

Two extrovert and two introvert,

these are the four:

- Sanguine
- Choleric
- Melancholy
- Phlegmatic

So that you can get a handle on some of this,
let's say that you want to know
a sanguine in the Bible,
then read the biography of Peter and of Andrew.

They are pure sanguines.
Everybody loves a sanguine.
They come through the door mouth first.

You find sanguines on used car lots.
I mean they can sell a piece of goods to anybody.
They are phenomenal.
Everybody loves a sanguine.

They are friendly, they exaggerate like crazy,
the fish was that big, and the golf shot dropped
that close to the hole, they just exude enthusiasm.

You find speakers and preachers and teachers
who sometimes are just pure sanguines.

They are given to great highs and lows of emotions. They can
be laughing like crazy one minute
and crying through a sad story the next.

They are touched easily by feelings.
Everybody is a friend to a sanguine.

What about a melancholy?

A melancholy is a pessimist.

The pure melancholy among the 12 is Thomas.
“Let us also go and die with him.”

That is a melancholy,
introvert of temperament
but idealistic and terribly creative.

Most of your artists, your musicians,

your philosophers, and your great students
are melancholy.
Melancholy controls the music industry for instance.

A phlegmatic is a person who is terribly humorous.

If you have been around a phlegmatic
you know you laugh every time
he opens his mouth.

He sees something funny in everything he sees.

I think Philip was a phlegmatic among the 12.
He and Andrew were nutty buddies,
everything was funny to them and a pure phlegmatic.
Now the choleric is the Apostle Paul.

They are tough, they are determined,
they are goal oriented
and they are flat going to go for it
and they do not mind
walking over people to do it.

And they tell you, how the cow eats the cabbage.
That is a choleric.

What is David?
David is a sanguine-melancholy.
If you took two temperaments
and put them together

and you want to have a dominant and recessive
you always say the dominant first.

So David is a sanguine-melancholy.
If he walked in, he would have a big smile,
and he would be hugging you.

He loves you, he likes you, and he has an
incredible capacity to make a lot of friends
and everybody loves him.

The melancholy side of his temperament
would tell us
that he is also very creative.

Now let me give you some words
that would characterize
these two temperaments:

- Outgoing
- Charisma
- Warm
- Friendly
- Responsive
- Talkative
- Enthusiastic
- Carefree
- Compassionate
- Generous
- Gifted
- Loves beauty

- Supersensitive
- Runs deep
- Self-sacrificing

What are the weaknesses though?

This temperament combination has a tendency to be undisciplined under pressure.

This temperament will say,
 “I am going to get up and run in the morning”,
 but when tomorrow morning comes
 you do not find them because
 they want that extra few minutes in the sack.
 This temperament would say,
 you know, I should not mess around with that
 but pressure says go ahead.

It’s terribly difficult for this temperament
 to resist temptation
 and you will see that in David.
 He has a difficult time.

He had a natural temperament
 that made friends,
 especially women friends, easily.

And you are going to watch that
 become a problem for him.

A sanguine-melancholy is probably going to be
the best professor on the campus.
Everybody loves to come to his class.

The sanguine-melancholy who is a doctor
will have the best bedside manners.

It is an incredible, phenomenal,
combination of temperament.

The melancholy, to get an idea
of what that is
when it comes into the musical realm
is always in the minor key.

I am sure that almost all country music today
is written by the pure melancholy temperament:

I really tried to drown my sorrows
but the little buggers learned to swim.

You picked a fine time to leave me Lucille,
four hungry children and the crops in the field.

I bought the shoes, that just walked out on me.

I mean, wow, that is sad city.
But that is the melancholy wail.

I think much of the songwriting that David wrote
as he strummed his harp was in a minor key
that is often expressed in the Psalms.

David is characterized as
a man after God's own heart.

It causes us to ask the question:

What kind of heart is God looking for?

I would say, it is a heart that has
the four following characteristics:

1. It's a SENSITIVE heart.
2. It's a SUBMISSIVE heart.
3. It's a SERVANT'S heart.
4. It is a heart desirous to be a
STUDENT OF THE SCRIPTURES.

So let's become students.

STUDY NUMBER ONE - I Samuel 16:1-23

In this chapter we are going to see:

I. DAVID BEFORE SAMUEL - 16:1-13

II. DAVID BEFORE SAUL - 16:14-23

And there is a reason for the transition.

The book of Samuel was probably written by some unnamed prophet or priest sometime close to the end of Solomon's reign.

That is what most people believe as far as who authored these books under divine inspiration.

As we launch into the chapter, it would be good for us to recognize the cast of characters. Reference will be made to:

Samuel
Saul
Jesse
the Lord
the elders
Eliab
Abinadab
Shammah
the Spirit of the Lord
and David, himself

Now let's get right into it.

v. 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.”

Samuel is sitting there and the Lord has to
gently reprove him with a question.
And his question is,
“how long are you going to
mourn over Saul,
since I have rejected him?”
That tells you two incredible things about Samuel.
That tells you that even though Saul has had
no time for Samuel,
even though Saul has resisted Samuel
and Saul has taken Samuel’s place,
Samuel still loves this guy
and wants the best for Saul.
Now that is gut level stuff.

That is where the rubber meets the road
when you can wish someone WELL
who does not have
the time of day for you
and who is taking the place
that belongs to you.

He is mourning over the fact
that Saul has been rejected.

Samuel has hung on to his mourning

so much
that the Lord has to come along and say,

hey man it's time to get on
with new assignments,
and put the past behind you.

I asked myself the question when I looked at this,
“can you mourn too long over something?”
Maybe you are sitting here and you are not doing
too good
and you feel like you have a right
not to do good
because you are bitter
or you are resentful
or you are mourning over something
that God has allowed
to go on in your life
and you are just flat angry.

Part of forgiving
is learning to forgive God,
for what he has allowed
in our lives.

We have to do that
to have a healthy relationship
with Him.

God is saying let go,
life has to go on,
forget the past,
let's get on
with what is ahead.

Notice God's command to Samuel his servant is,
"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."

Why didn't the Lord just say,
to make it a whole lot easier,

Samuel I am sending you to Bethlehem
with your horn of oil
to anoint David
one of the sons of Jesse?

Why didn't he say that?

God never gives you all the information
when He wants to teach you something.

If Samuel had known it was David
he would not have learned a tremendous lesson,
he was going to learn.

Sometimes God withholds information from you
until you learn
to trust him and follow his plan
and then He will give you
further information.

So it is very nebulous right now.

We don't know a whole lot other than,
there happens to be in Bethlehem
a boy who is the son of Jesse
who is going to be made king.
That is all we know.

So we are going back, to the city of Bethlehem
and Samuel is supposed to go there.

v. 2 But Samuel said, "How can I go?
Saul will hear about it and kill me." **Read only A //**
The Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come
to sacrifice to the Lord.'

Samuel raises the question how and then tells us why he is frightened. "Saul will hear about it and kill me."

Samuel is so practical; and he is so scarred.

You know this is a legitimate fear
because if a king heard that there was another
king-elect being chosen

and to anoint or attempt to anoint another king
would be viewed as an act of treason
and would be worthy of death for himself
and the king-designate.

Sometimes God asks us to do
some scary things.

For instance, in the New Testament
I have always been amazed at Ananias.
Do you remember who he is in Acts 9?

He gets up in the morning
as a faithful servant of the Lord.

He has his devotional time and then the Lord says, "Ananias I
want you to go down
the street called Straight
and I want you to call on a guy there
by the name of Saul of Tarsus."

Acts 9:13-14

“But Ananias answered, ‘Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem, and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call upon Your name.’”

I guess this is the end Lord;

I am going on my final assignment. Mission Impossible. You can just see him tripping down the street scared to death.

His knees are knocking together
and he goes up to the door
praying like crazy
that Saul would not be at home
and he knocks on the door
with a sponge.

Basically the guy, is just scared to death;

But then he witnesses the miracle of Saul's conversion and of what God has done in Acts 9:17-18.

In the rest of verse 2 we read,

v. 2 “The Lord said,
‘Take a heifer with you and say,
‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’”

There is a lot of instruction in that.

You don't have to tell people everything that you are doing.

In fact to be wise sometimes,
is to keep your mouth quiet
and let the process go on
and watch what begins to happen
as God begins to work.

Just tell them,
you are coming for a sacrifice,
because you are coming for a sacrifice.

You don't have to tell them
that you are going over
to Jesse's house
to get the substitute for Saul.

Just don't share that right now. Just relax.

Invite Jesse to the sacrifice.
The Lord always has a plan.

v. 3 "Invite Jesse to the sacrifice,
and I will show you what to do.
You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."

“And I will show you what to do.
You are to anoint for me” – David.

Is that what it says?

You are going to have to trust me
to reveal who it's going to be
when you get over there.

Samuel did what the Lord said.
He has always been obedient.
He is a man who is so sensitive to God
that when God makes known His way, he does it.

Samuel now has the specific instructions
to go with a sacrifice
to the city of Bethlehem,
and to invite Jesse to the sacrifice.
And the Lord says, “I will show you what to do.
You are to anoint for me
the one I indicate.”

He doesn't tell him yet
which one it's going to be.

Now when the judge comes to town
you get scared
because he might be coming to judge.

Here comes the judge
and they are scared & frightened.

Why? Guilty conscience.

v. 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?”

v. 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.

Now that’s a word that you don’t hear very often.

How do you consecrate someone
and prepare him or her for the sacrifice?

1 Cor. 11:28

“For let a man examine himself and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”

2 Cor. 7:1

“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

Psalm 139:23-24

“Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my anxious thoughts, and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.”

Examine me so that I can be set apart
for this special occasion
to have an experience of worship with God
that I might bring pleasure to Him,
as I come to worship and to praise.

And these eight people are set aside.

Have you ever asked yourself the question,
why didn't Jesse bring David?

Well, he is the youngest.

Most of his other boys are practically middle-aged. David is the runt.

He would probably mess it up if he came over there, teenage kid start playing his harp or stir up something and Samuel would get all upset.

Just leave him out there, with the sheep.
And they did.

I think it is important to note
that he consecrated

and prepared for this spiritual occasion Jesse plus his 7 sons, and not David.

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

Look at that.

Now are you like this?

Have you walked with the Lord for so long that you have the Lord all figured out and you know just exactly what he is going to do, before he does it?

In fact you can predict it!

He makes a line up of the seven boys and he has his pick already.

His first-draft pick is the number one born son, Eliab. Boy is he good looking.

He is the next king and I can relate to him and he is going to take Saul's place. I know it, I have walked with God for a long time. Has to be Eliab.

One of the hardest problems for people who have been Christians for quite a while is to be careful that you do not fall guilty

of assumption.

Nor do you become a person
who tries to anticipate
what the Lord is doing.

Nor should you ever put yourself
in the place of judging by appearances.

God does not do it that way.

However we do.
The whole world operates that way.

v. 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.

The Lord is using this occasion
as a teaching opportunity for Samuel.

The things that impress Samuel about Saul
are the things which the Lord
is applying to this situation
with regard to Eliab.

But in contrast to all of that, the Lord says to Samuel, “Don’t consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him.”

I don’t want you to look at his outward appearance. Don’t judge a man by his looks.

God never judges anyone on that basis.

He looks upon the heart.

Sometimes we want attractive and talented people for the Lord’s work,

but they turn out to be heartaches

because they are not among God’s chosen workers.

There is such a contrast
between the divine
and the human perspectives.

Isaiah 55:8, 9

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord; for as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

God chooses in a different way.

What does God see

when He looks upon your heart?

v. 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said,

“The Lord has not chosen this one either.”

Abinadab is the second-born son.

**He is brought up to Samuel and passed before him,
and Samuel had the awareness
that he was not
the Lord’s will either.**

**v. 9 Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor
has the Lord chosen this one.”**

**The third-born son, Shammah, passed before Samuel, and
Samuel gives the same response,
“The Lord has not chosen this one either.”**

**That is the first, second, and third-born boys.
They are all gone.
How many are left?
Four, five, six, and seven.
And you will notice in the next verse
Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel.**

But Samuel said the Lord has not chosen these.

**Can you see Samuel?
Looking at these seven boys
and their perfection of humanity
and none of them have been chosen.**

v. 10 Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him,
“The Lord has not chosen these.”

Sons #4, 5, 6,7 all pass before him.
Seven sons and none of them are the ones
that the Lord has chosen.

What is Samuel thinking?
Lord, are you playing a trick on me?
None of them are it. What am I going to do?

v. 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.”

Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down
until he arrives.” I love that.
Samuel is at least smart enough to know
that if there is only one left
then it has been narrowed down
and that has to be God’s anointed.

He is excited and he just cannot wait.

And then here comes this young man
somewhere between 10 and 16 years of age
walking into the presence of this group.

Psalm 78:70-72 Beautifully describes this event,

“He also chose David, his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds, from the care of the ewes with suckling lambs, he brought him, to shepherd Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance. So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them with his skillful hands.”

Have you ever thought that maybe
God did not really know
what he was doing
when you had that job
that you had,
when you were young?

Do you think that maybe God
made a mistake
by putting David out there
in the sheepfold?

See if you can say that
after you hear this:

Psalm 8

“O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth, who has displayed Your splendor above the heavens. When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You take thought of him, and

the Son of man that You care for him, yet You made him a little lower than God, and You crown him with glory and majesty!”

Psalm 19:1

“The heavens are telling of the glory of God, and the firmament is declaring the work of His hands.”

God has an amazing way
of bringing everything into our lives
and making it significant.

And when David’s pen drips with the Psalms
he goes back to these experiences
as a shepherd on the hillside
to describe the times
when his heart was tender toward God
and sensitive to the Lord’s direction.

v. 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.”

“He was ruddy.” He had red hair, or maybe it was sun bleached from being outside.
His hair and skin were considered quite handsome
in a country where most of the people
were darkhaired and darkskinned.

David was a handsome young man,
but God did not choose him
for that reason.
God knew his heart
and he was God's choice.

v. 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.

Ramah is Samuel's hometown.
It is nine miles to the northeast from Bethlehem
so he goes on back.

Verse 13 tells us that he was anointed
in the midst of his brothers.

This was the first of three anointings for David.
His second came as king of Judah (2 Sam. 2:4),
and his third as king over all Israel (2 Sam. 5:3).

Now what do you do with a brand new king
that has just been anointed?

God does not waste any time.

David goes back out to tending the sheep

as though nothing had happened
but he is empowered now by the Holy Spirit and you will
notice a tragedy in verse 14.

v. 14 Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and
an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him.

Romans chapter 1 says, when we resist
and when we sin, God gives them over.

There comes a time, when evil takes over
and God's restraining power
is withdrawn.

Maybe the evil here is dismay, maybe it is depression, maybe
it is calamity, maybe it is disaster,
maybe it is just anxiety,
maybe it is a total psychological breakdown.

Maybe it is demonic,
that could be very real,
under God's sovereign permission.

Gene Getz says, "If the evil spirit troubling Saul was indeed a
demon, how do we explain that this evil personage came from
the Lord. This would probably refer to the fact that God
permitted the spirit to come upon Saul. It would be a
reference to the Lord's sovereign control over all things.

Though he has given Satan and his company of evil spirits a great deal of freedom they cannot do anything without God's permission, especially in the lives of His children. The word evil can legitimately refer to discontent, calamity, or disaster. Thus the Lord could have sent to Saul this kind of spirit or sense of distress and anxiety, rather than being an outside evil force sent as a demon. The spirit could have been a psychological condition within Saul's inner being, resulting directly from God's judgment upon him. Therefore, Saul's case would be different from demon possession and also different from a typical psychological problem.

Whatever the interpretation, one thing needs to be made clear.

Without doubt, Saul brought this condition on himself. It began with Saul's outright disobedience to God's personal and direct communication. And once God's Spirit left him, Saul deteriorated in his relationship, both with God and with people. Though Saul could have thrown himself upon God's mercy to deliver him from his uncomfortable and difficult state, he chose to try to solve the problem in his own strength. But even then, we see God continuing to reach out to Saul in love.

In fact, God's judgment was discipline, an act of love designed to turn Saul's heart back toward righteousness."

J. Vernon McGee points out,

"I believe Saul was completely taken over by Satan. His servants noted that he had this mental malady, the spiritual sickness.

v. 15 Saul's attendants said to him,
"See, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you.

v. 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."
These guys realize there is a therapy in music.
It is interesting that there is a harp player,
out there on the hills of Bethlehem,
among all the citizens of the nation Israel,
who is going to come before the scene.

Just a coincidence?

Has your life been filled
with an incredible amount
of coincidences?

I just want to point out, the right use of music
brings positive results,
and the wrong use negative results.

v. 17 So Saul said to his attendants,
"Find someone who plays well and bring him to me."

Here Saul is issuing a command,

literally under sovereign direction,
to expose David to the consequences
of unrestricted resistance to the will of God.

v. 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.”

There are eight characteristics here for David
if you want to put some more flesh on him.

He:

Has fine appearance

Handsome

A musician

Brave

A warrior

A good communicator or a good speaker

Fine looking

Best of all, the Lord is with him

It is interesting that the servant would say,
hey, I know a son of Jesse who plays the harp well.

Why is God behind that?

What does a new king need?

Two things.

A new king needs to see, how a king kings.

And a new king needs to learn, how to be a servant.

The first lesson in your curriculum for leadership
is to be a servant.

If you are going to walk with God
the first thing you have to learn
is to be a servant.

The progress in your work for the Lord
is going to be on your willingness
to be a servant.

To be spent in the lives of others
for the glory of God
with no thought
of what you are getting out of it,
is the picture.

And God has designed this curriculum
beautifully for David here
and he is going to learn
how not only to be a king
in the court of Saul
but he is also going to have the privilege
of being a servant.

v. 19 Then Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, “Send me
your son David, who is with the sheep.”

Jesse had no alternative but to obey.

v. 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.

Jesse got a gift together made up of bread, wine and meat and sent them with David to Saul.

v. 21 David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much, and David became one of his armor-bearers.

I underlined that statement
“Saul liked him very much.”

You have to hang on to that
because that is not going to last
through next week.

In the first part of our passage,
David is providentially brought before Samuel.
Now in the latter part of the passage,
he is providentially brought before Saul.

v. 22 Then Saul sent word to Jesse, saying,
“Allow David to remain in my service,
for I am pleased with him.”

Back in verse 21 we see that
'Saul liked him very much.'
And now in verse 22
we see that 'Saul is pleased with him.'

v. 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.

There is a spiritual therapy in good Christian music.
I am sure that David sang many of the psalms
on these occasions.

Rev. Alan Redpath points out, "Isn't it strange that the one thing that helped Saul, which somehow brought rest into his fevered spirit and calmed his inner battle, was music. What a tremendous ministry is that of song and music. Chords that are broken will vibrate once more, goes the old song we often sing. And how quickly do they begin to respond when they hear the lovely old songs of the faith. Why should that be? Because heaven is full of song and music. The Bible tells us so. It is an expression of the very life of heaven, and that is why the singing of a hymn can be used to speak to a heart that is desolate. Saul's poor lonely soul responded to music when nothing else could touch him.

Conclusion:

In 1 Sam. 16 we have seen:

1. David before Samuel verses 1-13

2. David before Saul verses 14-23

Before Samuel he is anointed as king.

Before Saul he becomes a servant.

The first lesson in leadership is to become a servant.

The apostle Paul in Philippians 2:5-7 says,

“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a bondservant, and being made in the likeness of men.”

Mark 10:45

“For even the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.”

The first course in the divine leadership curriculum is a course in servanthood.

Let me ask you a question.

Do you have a heart like Saul's

or do you have a heart like David?

Are you really desirous to be a heart that is pure and clean, filled with faith, longing to serve the Lord and to be effective for him?

With the Spirit of God operating in that heart.

Psalm 139:23-25

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in me; and lead me in the way everlasting.”

**We all need to do that
and let the Holy Spirit examine our hearts.**

**The big question is:
Are we men and women after God's own heart?**

Are we really sure?

**Do we have a head-knowledge of God,
and not a heart-knowledge?**

**Luis Palau asks the question,
“Which are you?
A Saul or a David?**

What You Need to Know About DAVID

"I will sing to the Lord, for He has been good to me" (Psalm 13:6)

PART I

STUDY NUMBER ONE - 1 Samuel 16:1-23

16:v. 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."

v. 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.'"

v. 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."

v. 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?"

v. 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.

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

v. 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."

v. 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either."

v. 9 Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the Lord chosen this one."

v.10 Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these."

v.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."

v.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."

v.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.

v.14 Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him.

v.15 Saul's attendants said to him, "See, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you."

v.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."

v.17 So Saul said to his attendants, "Find someone who plays well and bring him to me."

v.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."

v.19 Then Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep."

v.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.

v.21 David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much, and David became one of his armor-bearers.

v.22 Then Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, "Allow David to remain in my service, for I am pleased with him."

v.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.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-23 several times and in your own words outline what is happening in the life of David.
2. What is the Lord's question and command given to Samuel in verse 1?
3. What is the Lord's promise to Samuel in verse 3?
4. How did Samuel feel about Eliab, according to verse 6?
5. How does the Lord consider a good man, according to verse 7?
6. What happened to David when Saul anointed him, according to verse 13?
7. Describe how David has his first encounter with King Saul, according to verses 14-23.
8. How did Saul respond to David, according to verses 21 & 22?
9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?
10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

STUDY NUMBER ONE - 1 Samuel 16:1-23

- #1: It is possible to mourn too long over some situation which the Lord has permitted.**
- #2: There comes a time to quit living in the past and go on to new assignments.**
- #3: If the Lord came tonight, would you tremble or be at peace?**
- #4: The agony of assumption, anticipation, and appearance are demonstrated in this passage.**
- #5: It is not what you "see" but what you "be" that counts with the Lord.**
- #6: Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.**
- #7: The right use of music brings positive results, and the wrong use negative results.**