## Men's Sunday Night A Study in the Life of David <u>A Man After God's Own Heart</u> Lesson 1 - 1 Samuel 16 The Humble Servant

We enter now into a study of the life of David, "*the man after God's own heart.*" As Saul is a picture of the carnal life, so David is a picture of the spiritual life of the believer who walks by faith in the Lord. It is true that David sinned. Unlike Saul, however, David confessed his sins and sought to restore his fellowship with God. We see in this chapter two scenes in David's early life.

### The Obedient Son (16:1–13)

What a solemn statement: "*I have rejected Saul!*" This rejection was not yet known to the people, and Saul was still "putting on a front" as the king of the land. So dangerous was Saul that Samuel had to devise a plan to escape his wrath when visiting Bethlehem. When, at God's direction, Samuel arrived at the house of Jesse to invite them to the feast, David was not even there. He was in the fields caring for the sheep. Samuel was about to make the mistake of evaluating the men by their physical gifts when God reminded him that the heart was the important thing.

### The Humble Servant (16:14–23)

What a tragic contrast: The Spirit came upon David, but departed from Saul! An evil spirit was permitted by God to afflict Saul and he became, at times, like a madman. True, the king might "feel better" afterward, but it would be a false peace. The servants should have prayed for Saul to get right with God. David came to court and immediately became a favorite. Of course, had Saul known that God had chosen David to be king, he would have immediately tried to kill the lad. When he did discover this, Saul began to persecute David and hunt him in the wilderness of Israel.

# **Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13 and answer the following questions:**

1. What was Samuel doing when the Lord called him to anoint the next king? Why was Samuel afraid to carry out the Lord's instructions?

2. What did God promise to do when Samuel arrived at Jesse's house?

3. Why did Samuel think that Eliab might be the son God had chosen? What mattered to God in choosing the next king for Israel (16:7)?

4. Why did Samuel ask Jesse if he had any other sons? When he learned of the existence of another son, what did Samuel command?

5. How is David described in his meeting with Samuel? What was the result of the anointing of David by Samuel (16:13)?

### **Read 1 Samuel 16:14-23 and answer the following questions:**

6. What were two unfortunate characteristics of Saul's spiritual life after his disobedience (16:14)?

7. How did Saul's servant describe David (16:18)?

8. What message did Saul send to Jesse? How did Jesse respond to the king's request to send his youngest son (16:19-20)?

9. How did Saul respond to David when David joined Saul's court? What relationship developed between Saul and David (16:21-23)?

10. How do you imagine you would feel if, like Saul, you were first chosen by God and then rejected by God?

11. What step could you take this week to help assure that you do not become like Saul, from whom the Spirit of the Lord departed?

12. Using the example of the young David, how could you encourage a young person to develop into the person God wants him or her to be?

## Lessons from a Shepherd

Very early in David's life he learned to know the living God as his shepherd. Long before God exposed David to the public, he had met difficulties in the line of his occupation and learned by hard, yet necessary experience, that he could do all things through God who strengthened him. When many people who had fled from the lion or the bear to save their own lives, David called upon God for help. David proved God's love and power in his own simple life in such a way that by the time his life crisis arrived, it was almost second nature to meet difficulties head on in the name of the living God. Perhaps it was during these early years when David as a young shepherd wrote Psalm 23.

### **Read Psalms 23 and answer the following questions**

1. What can you do to celebrate God's goodness and provision?

2. How could you comfort or encourage a friend who is struggling with fear or grief?

3. What good things, experiences, and people do you want to thank God for now?