

**Men's Sunday Night**  
**A Study in the Life of David**  
**A Man After God's Own Heart**  
**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?

