

# 1 Samuel 16:1-13

## “The Basis of God’s Choice”

Today we are beginning a brand new 8 week series on one of my Favorite characters in the Bible.

A) DAVID - David is given a **unique title** by God  
“A MAN AFTER MY OWN HEART!”

B) No one else in the pages of scripture is referred to in that way. –

1) **A man or woman after God’s own heart!**

C) So David is unique in the title he is given.

**David is also unique in his coverage:**

A) David is mentioned in the Bible more than any other person.

B) His name occurs three times more often than either Abraham or Moses.

1) He is mentioned even more than Jesus Christ.

C) His name is mentioned **Over 1100 times** in the Bible, including **58 times** in the New Testament.

1) Four books (and 65 chapters) of the Old Testament tell his life story.

2) **He wrote at least 73 Psalms.**

D) In the 30 centuries since his death, he has been painted, sculpted, idealized and immortalized.

1) To this day parents name their children after him.

**David is unique in his failings**

A) The interesting thing about the Bible is it presents it’s hero’s in an honest light.

B) We see the **good the bad and the ugly**

1) David had plenty of all **three of these things** including the ugly

C) God knew these ugly things would be a part of David’s life – before he even chose him

1) And yet God still chose him

D) **What did God know about David?**

- ❖ God knew David would be prone to battles with depression
- ❖ God knew David would **multiply wives**
- ❖ God knew David would **commit Adultery**
- ❖ God knew David would **commit murder**
- ❖ God knew David would fail as a father

God knew all those things about David – God knew David would not be perfect

A) David failed big time in many areas

B) But the **unique thing** about David in his failings is that David always repented – **Saul Sorry/David Repented**

C) And Despite his many failings – David still finished well.

1) Not usually the case of those who failed in the Bible

**So what was it about David that attracted the heart of God? – Discuss today. David’s calling**

A) **THE BASIS OF GOD’S CHOICE** -What does God look for in a person He chooses to lead?

Aa) Consideration today

B) So When we arrive at 1 Samuel 16 / Saul has been the king in Israel for 27yrs.

C) Seen that Saul would have won **PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARDS** –

1) Saul was **tall, dark, and handsome** - everything the people wanted in a King

D) But because of his **Pride & disobedience – AND Unrepentant heart –**

Dd) His was a quick Demise – After roughly 2 yrs.  
**God had rejected him**

E) Although he would stay on the throne for 40 yrs.

1) MOST of those YEARS would be marked by an **absence of God’s leading and anointing**

**When we come to Chapter 16 there is a new focus**

**New Man – New Day – New Leading**

***1) Now the LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel?”***

**Samuel is still grieving over Saul**

A) God was ready to do a New thing / but Samuel was still grieving over the Old thing

B)Grieving is fine – in fact - **Good mark of a man or woman of God** –

1) Is **WHEN** they are burdened by the sins of those around them

C)When Sin no longer grieves the heart of a Pastor of ministry leader – time to do something else.

D) **Samuel was discouraged**

1)But we must remember that God will never allow His work to die with the death or failure of a man.

E) If it is *God's* work, it goes beyond any man.

So God says to Samuel – *You have grieved enough – It is time to get on w/ My Program – my man*

*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.”*

A)Now pause there for a moment – This is a good **reminder to us** of How God leads

B)God leads us **one step at a time!** That's what we see in God sending Samuel down to anoint one of Jesse's sons

C)God doesn't give Samuel a play by play. God doesn't give him the name –

1)He basically says go and I will give you further instructions when needed.

D)**God rarely – spells it all out!**

1)He leads us one step at a time.

E)Samuel like us is at first apprehensive

<sup>2</sup>And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.”

But the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’  
<sup>3</sup>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.”

<sup>4</sup>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?”

Now if you are unfamiliar with 1 Samuel or you were not here on Wed. night – V.4 might seem confusing

A)Elders tremble – asking Samuel – Come peaceably

B)Ch.15 Samuel personally takes care of Saul's disobedience – Saul – Agag – Trophy

C)Samuel had just Hacked Agag to pieces – **think Gandolf**

1)Samuel is on the **older side** – took the sword  
So Samuel had quite the reputation after Ch. 15 – People hear - Samuel is coming to town

A)**Is he smiling? Or does He look mad?**

B)Is he carrying a staff or a Sword?

C)So These Elders are wondering – *Have you come peaceably or are we in trouble too.*

<sup>5</sup>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.

**PREPARATION BEFORE WORSHIP !!!**

A)Notice once again we are reminded that preparation is to precede worship

B)**Midst vs Manifesting his Presence** – a lot of times is related to our heart preparation

C)Samuel says Sanctify yourselves –

1) Prepare your Hearts!

D)So Jesse lines up his sons – **the Magnificent seven**

V. 6 So 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.”

Here we are given our first insight into the type of person that God chooses to use.

**#1 God uses people who have the right heart!**

A) The Basis of God's Choice is Contrary to Human reasoning – The Lord does not see as man sees!

1) When Samuel sees Eliab he is thinking right away that this is a good Choice

B) Eliab was a carbon copy of Saul – Big strong / handsome – man's man -

1) Channing Tatum / Bradley Cooper / Zac Efron

C) Problem was Samuel only saw the OUTWARD MAN – but God saw the Character of His heart – 1) "Man looks at the outward ..... I look ....

In our society we base so much on Qualifications, credentials & first impressions –

A) A lot of times those first impressions can be a FACADE – it is not the real thing –

B) like Disneyland – fake buildings – Movie sets

C) A lot of times you find that what is beneath the surface isn't very real / isn't very deep –

Perhaps you heard about the guy who fell in love with an opera singer.

He hardly knew her, since his only view of the singer was through binoculars -- from the third balcony.

A) But he was convinced he could live "happily ever after" married to a voice like that.

B) He didn't notice she was considerably older than he was.

1) Nor did he care that she walked with a limp.

C) Her great soprano voice would take them through whatever might come.

After a whirlwind romance/ a hurry-up ceremony, they were off for their honeymoon together.

A) She began to prepare for their first night together.

B) He watched, in horror as

- ❖ She plucked out her glass eye and plopped it into a container on the nightstand.
- ❖ She pulled off her wig,

❖ ripped off her false eyelashes,

❖ yanked out her dentures,

❖ unstrapped her artificial leg,

❖ and smiled at him as she slipped off her glasses that hid her hearing aid.

C) Stunned and horrified, he gasped, "For goodness sake, woman, sing, sing, SING!"

Things are not always what they seem on the surface!

When God is looking for a Person – He isn't interested so much in all the ability, talent or what the person has to offer on the outside

A) He is more concerned w/ Who that person is on the INSIDE – the fiber of their heart – Their Integrity

B) – Eliab didn't pass the test /

C) Redpath – "When God Chooses to build a man of God – He looks for different timber" - Alan Redpath

1) It didn't matter how good Eliab looked, because God said, "I have refused him."

C) What was it about David that caught God's eye?

Back in 1 Samuel 13 Saul offered a burnt offering which was reserved for the Prophet and Priest

A) Samuel declared to Saul God has Rejected you

"The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart"

Aa) That is what God saw in David – a man after His own heart!

B) What does it mean that David was a man after God's own heart? TWO THINGS

C) 1<sup>ST</sup> David had a heart like God!

God watched David take care of the sheep –

A) I like the way that boy – takes care of sheep

B) God's word tells us that People are like Sheep

1) Sheep are dumb –

C) God didn't say all we like Dolphins have gone astray {Dolphins are smart

1) Sheep are dumb – they go astray – they need a shepherd

D) So do we – God knows that – so God says – I want a king who has a shepherd's heart like mine.

**2<sup>ND</sup> being a man after God's own heart – also means that David was *After God's heart!***

A) In other words David was a pursuer of God!

B) Which is why David had a heart like God – the first is the by product of the SECOND!

C) David was a man who longed for God  
**Psalm 42 As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God.  
<sup>2</sup>My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.**

D) David thirsted for God – who longed to be near God –  
**Psalm 27 *One thing I have desired of the Lord that I will seek ..... dwell ... behold the beauty***

**David's passion was knowing God and he only got off track when that ceased to be his passion**

A) So God looks first and foremost for people who have the right heart!

B) People who are after His heart

C) Can I ask you what is your one thing? What's the thing that makes your heart jump?  
1) What's the thing that gets you excited? Gets you out of bed each morning?

D) Is it Jesus?

**Philippians 3 Paul Writes 30 years following Jesus**

A) Laying aside everything – KNOW JESUS!

B) **This ONE THING I DO!** – forgetting the things that are behind and reaching forward...ahead

1) Pressing on – to Know Jesus – serve Jesus

C) For Paul it was all about Jesus –  
1) 30 Years don't you know Him? – So much

D) This is the starting point – Don't know Jesus?

God wants you to know Him

1) John 17:3 – Eternal life - Know = ginosko

E) **Starting point** – **Middle point** – (Life is about)

1) **Ending point** – 1 John 3:2 **See him and be like him**

**God chose David first and foremost because David had a heart that longed for God.**

A) **BIG IDEA: Man looks at the outward appearance but God looks at the heart.**

**8 So 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.**

B) So Jesse has seven of his sons pass before Samuel – Seven is the number of Completion or perfection

C) Redpath – *Samuel's seven sons represented the perfection of the Flesh/ outwardly they fit the criteria – but God is not interested in refining the flesh*

**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." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here" 12 So 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 God uses people who have the right heart!**

**#2 God uses ordinary people.**

A) Now the term Youngest in that culture – referred to the least –

B) So Jesse was not holding back any secret of his estimation of David

1) He was his insignificant son, his unimportant son –

The kids Weird, is out there in the field, is playing his guitar, looking for stones for his slingshot

C) He was **so insignificant** that– He didn't even consider calling him to this meeting –

**V.11 THERE HE IS**

D) Wasn't like David was far away – Needed to send a servant - He was within Eye view

1) A quick call – a short run

E) David might have been insignificant in his Dad's eyes –

1) But **he was not INSIGNIFICANT** in God's eyes

**You ever feel insignificant?**

A) Just because you are not visible doesn't mean you are not valuable.

B) Valuable to God – God loves to work through ordinary people!

C) God chooses – often times it is the one that we would least expect – Why does He do that?

**1Cor 1:26-29 Paul answers that Question – RD**

<sup>26</sup>“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*. <sup>27</sup> But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; <sup>28</sup> and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, <sup>29</sup> that no flesh should glory in His presence..... as it is written, “*He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.*” 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

**B) God says I am going to Choose the Least so that I will get the Glory**

1) Look on in amazement & Know – that was a work of God

**God says I have a different plan – I am going to take the least expected / the least likely & do**

**such an awesome work – you Will know it is God**

A) When God wanted to reach the Hippies in Southern California in the 1960's – Who did He Pick to minister to them?

B) Hip guy w/ long hair / musician - no

1) A humble balding Bible teacher who liked to surf – Chuck Smith

C) When God was looking for a Voice – to Preach Gospel in the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century – who was picked? Brightest in Seminary - / Most Educated? No

1) Humble uneducated Shoe salesman – DL MOODY

Cc) Teased about his Vocabulary – Using all the English I know to tell people about Jesus. What are YOU DOING WITH YOURS

1) **DL Moody went from selling souls to saving souls**

D) When God was looking for another Evangelist for the Mid to late 1900's who did he pick ? –

1) A tall lanky, fiery farm boy from NC – Billy Graham

**See God picks people like that – so that when the world looks at their Backgrounds the response – is It is a Miracle – it makes no sense /**

A) The only way that we can explain it is it is a work of God –

**B) that's the only Kind of work I want to be a part of**

C) So Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel – Seven # of perfection /

1) but the 8<sup>th</sup> was Chosen – 8 # of New Beginnings

D) God was going to do a **new work** in Israel/ a work that needed a New man –

E) **An ordinary man with the right kind of heart!**

**#1 God uses people who have the right heart!**

**#2 God uses ordinary people.**

**#3 God uses those who are faithful.**

A) Where was David when He was called?

B) Sheep tending was one of the lowest of the servants Jobs –



### C) **DAVID WAS A HUMBLE SERVANT**

- 1) *Faithful in the little things – exalted w/ much*

**That is what God saw in His Humble servant David**

A) David wasn't seeking the lime light –

B) He was faithfully tending His fathers sheep – God saw His Humility – Rewarded Him

**“Promotion comes not from the East or from the West but from the Lord”** Psalm 75:6

C) The Bible declares that “God resist the proud but He gives grace to the humble.” James 4:6

1) Those who Exalt themselves will be brought down but those who humble themselves – lifted up.

D) Starting place for Some of you – here – You need to humble yourself – admit – you don't have it altogether – Sinner – **NEED A SAVIOR**

**YOU HUMBLE YOURSELF TODAY and a LOVING GOD – WILL EXALT YOU!**

A) Forgive and cleanse and make you New!

B) Others of you who know the Lord - **You don't need to try and make a name for yourself -**

1) You don't need to try and make others notice you.

C) Be Faithful in the little things - Humbly serve

D) Heaven is going to be filled with People who no one knew about – here on earth

1) They are known big time in heaven – Prayer warriors here/ faithful here.

**Can I encourage you to quit waiting for others to pour something on you – to notice you.**

A) When God pours something on you that is what matters.

B) **NOTE THIS: You don't need a better assignment in order to experience a greater ANNOINTING !**

C) This is what is so interesting about David's story – **David is anointed as King –**

1) But is sent right back out to the sheepfolds –

D) He is not saying – **But I got oil on my head –** No he humbly goes back to tending sheep  
1) Shoveling sheep manure – smelling like sheep  
**RUNNING ERRANDS for Dad**

**Sometimes we want more power for a new position when in reality sometimes we need God's power to be consistent in our present calling.**

A) **David went right back to the fields – He will not become king**

B) He doesn't know that in the next chapter he is going to be fighting Goliath!

C) But God knew – **God knows that it is the Field that makes you fit for the fight!**

D) God looks for those who are faithful –

E) Those who realize – I have nothing to prove and only one to please!

1) **He will not become king for 15 years – fugitive**

David was A man after God's own heart!

What about You?