

**People of the Promise:
David, Part 1: Chosen to Lead
1 Samuel 13-18**

Introduction

NJFK—shepherd's staff—the Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need. Follow the Good Shepherd. You'll end up exactly where you're supposed to be.

David was no perfect man. He had significant failures and sins in his life. He nonetheless serves as the prime example of a godly leader in the OT. Every succeeding king is compared to David. He stands in stark contrast to the self-willed leadership of Saul, long before ever assuming the responsibilities of the king of Israel. The promised Messiah will descend from his line and is at times called not just the Son of David, but just David.

Tonight, we want to look at the portrait of David in his early years even before he became king. God chose him to lead His people Israel. And when we are introduced to David, we see why.

1. God-Centered Heart (13, 15)
2. Anointed and Empowered (16)
3. Providential Direction (16)
4. God-driven Courage (17)
5. Public Acclaim (18)

1. God-Centered Heart (13, 15)

1 Samuel 13:13-14

13 And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the LORD your God, with which he commanded you. For then the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. **14** But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

"A man after his own heart"—a man who cares about what God cares about

Part of what God cared about was that His people have a shepherd who would lead them where they needed to go. Turns out David is a shepherd. He takes care of sheep and leads them to pasture. One day he will take care of people and lead them.

David protected the sheep from lions and bears. He put his life on the line and trusted God to give him victory over dangerous animals. He would do the same for the people of God. He wasn't living life for his own glory and pursuing his own goals. He was doing what he had been assigned to do, and doing it for the glory of God.

Yahweh sought him out. I think we can safely say that God is still looking for individuals like that in every generation, persons who care about what He cares about. And God has special plans for them.

1 Samuel 15:28

And Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you."

David was not sinless, but because David cared about what God cares about, he lived his life to please God and advance His cause.

In chapter 16 we learn that David is the youngest of Jesse's sons. When Samuel calls him "a man after God's own heart," David is somewhere between 10 and 15 years old.

How many of you are somewhere between 10 and 15?

- How would God describe you?
- Where has God assigned you for now?
- What do you think God cares about in the circumstances you are in?
- Is that what you care about most?

2. Anointed and Empowered (16)

1 Samuel 16:6-7

6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." **7** But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

Later we will find out that Eliab is a proud, abusive man, with a dismissive attitude toward his youngest brother for no good reason but that he is young—and despite having seen Samuel anoint him to be the next king! Perhaps he is not only proud but also jealous. The two often go together.

1 Samuel 16:11-13

11 Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." **12** And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." **13** Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

David is no older than 15. But the Spirit of God is empowering him to do what God is calling him to do. He will need God's power. It's not going to be an easy road.

Jesus has given every NT believer the Holy Spirit to indwell him or her. That's what the new covenant brings. If we walk in the Spirit we won't fulfill the sinful desires of the flesh. Yielding to the Spirit's control is to be filled by the Spirit. At times He rushes in with unusual power so that we can survive trials and temptations and seize opportunities with God-sized courage.

- Are you conscious of yielding to the Holy Spirit's control in your life?
- What does it look like when you do?
- What happens when you don't?

3. Providential Direction (16)

How in the world is a young teenager who keeps sheep in the countryside going to end up in the courts of the king—and have any idea what being a king requires? God is going to see to it.

1 Samuel 16:16-19

16 Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you,

he will play it, and you will be well." **17** So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me." **18** One of the young men answered, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the LORD is with him." **19** Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me David your son, who is with the sheep."

1 Samuel 16:21

And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer.

If you will bow your will to God and let Him be your Shepherd, you will end up exactly where you're supposed to be whenever you're supposed to be there. Stop fretting about the future. Trust the Lord to lead you each day. Do the next thing. Obey His direction. And you will go places you could never have imagined. You don't have to know where you're going if you stick close the One who knows where He's taking you.

4. God-driven Courage (17)

David is not yet serving in the army, so he can't be older than 19 years old.

1 Samuel 17:24-26

24 All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid.

25 And the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. And the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel." **26** And David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

Soldiers—overcome with fear; motivated by wealth, good connections, tax-free status—but these are not enough to take the risk

David's motivation? Taking away the reproach of Israel who are the armies of the living God

1 Samuel 17:36-37

36 Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." **37** And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

David is characterized by faith not fear because he is confident that God is with him as He has been in the past.

1 Samuel 17:45-47

⁴⁵ Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷ and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand."

David's speech is full of God—talks about God some six times in three verses. God's honor is at stake. That's why David takes up this seemingly impossible fight. God is bigger to him than any giant.

- What risks are you willing to take for the cause of defending and promoting God's honor?

5. Public Acclaim (18)

At this point David has likely reached the age of 20, since he is serving in the army.

1 Samuel 18:5-7

⁵ And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

⁶ As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. ⁷ And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, "Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands."

Having public acclaim was never David's goal. But for him to serve well as king, he will need the trust and loyalty of the people. He has already surpassed the current king in terms of popularity. A band of devoted followers will stick with him through the fugitive years. And when he finally comes to the throne, the nation will rejoice.

Don't seek to gain a following for yourself. You follow God, and those with a kindred heart will be happy to walk with you.

David's success makes King Saul insanely jealous, and he's going to take it out on David.

1 Samuel 18:8-9

⁸ And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?" ⁹ And Saul eyed David from that day on.

Trouble is coming. God is going to prepare His servant-king by taking him through great trials—next time.

Conclusion

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