

1st Samuel

Lesson 35

b) To Find a King

(1) A Look at the First Son (16:6-7)

No doubt, Samuel went about his business of setting up for the service. We are not told this here, but because we know the sacrificial system, Samuel had to enlist a local priest to help with the process. It was a two-priest job because Samuel was the offeror. He needed another priest to catch the blood, sprinkle it around the altar and stoke the fire as well as cook the meat for the meal. As all preparations were being made, the guests were cleaning themselves. It was time to find a king. As Jesse arrived, Samuel took a look at the first son. Verse 6.

"When they entered, he looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before Him."⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (16:6-7)

Samuel was taken by Eliab, Jesse's oldest, first-born son, but the LORD was not. We have to wonder if the people heard the LORD speaking to Samuel. Did Eliab hear the LORD's words, "*I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.*" Notice that the LORD said, "*God sees....*" Who is the LORD talking about? Who is "*God*" if the LORD is not "*God?*" Well ... the translators did not do us a favor here. The literal translation should be "*Yahweh said to Samuel ... Yahweh sees not as man sees ... but Yahweh looks at the heart.*" What does that mean? It means that the LORD God was speaking about Himself. The translators should have translated it "*the LORD sees not as man sees*" so the name of God matches in all three places.

Be that as it may, the words "*for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart*" are extremely important for everyone who reads the WORD of God. Looks do not matter; the heart is what matters to the LORD. The same applies to you today. He is not looking at what you look like. He is looking at what is going on in your heart towards Him.

(2) A Look at the Second Son (16:8)

The first son was not the one. We come to a look at the second son. Verse 8.

"Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." (16:8)

(3) A Look at the Third Son (16:9)

From the second son, we come to a look at the third son. Verse 9.

"Next Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." (16:9)

(4) A Look at the Seven Sons (16:10)

From the third son, Samuel took a look at the seven sons. Verse 10.

"Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."¹¹ And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are these all the children?" (16:10)

(5) A Look at the Eighth Son (16:11)

Finally, after all seven sons, it was time for Samuel to look at the eighth son. Verse 11.

"And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and behold, he is tending the sheep." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." (16:11)

When Samuel said to all the invited guests, "*for we will not sit down until he comes here,*" it tells us something important. Here is the scene. Samuel was at the place of the worship offering and sacrifice. As the guests arrived, Jesse arrived with seven of his eight sons. As the sons arrived,

Samuel inspected each son and waited to hear the LORD's decision on each. With a "no" on each of the seven sons, Samuel asked if there were more sons. The answer was "yes." The youngest son was not present. Samuel instructed Jesse to retrieve the youngest son immediately. This instruction probably meant that one of the other sons had to take David's place so he could quickly clean up and come to the worship. In addition, everyone was still standing, all the guests, Jesse, his sons, and all the elders. Samuel's instruction was that none of them would sit to eat until the youngest son had arrived. After all, the worship was for the person who was to be anointed, and he was not there yet.

c) **To Anoint a King**

(1) **The Spirit Came Upon David (16:12-13)**

David arrived. It was time to anoint a king. Then, the spirit came upon David. Verse 12.

"So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. 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 came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah." (16:12-13)

David was ruddy. We struggle with the definition. More than likely, it meant that his complexion was coral red with probably red hair. We come to this from comparing the word to the context of Lamentations 4:7, which says, "...They were more ruddy in body than corals...." Coral has a reddish cast.

We wish that the writer would have told us the color of David's beautiful eyes, but he did not. More than likely, they were brown.

The LORD told Samuel to "Arise, anoint him; for this is he." We must wonder if Samuel was seated while he required all the rest of the guests to remain standing. Instead, when David came in view, the LORD used the word "Arise." He meant for Samuel to come up to David and anoint him. Samuel was probably not sitting.

When Samuel anointed David, the Spirit of the LORD came upon David immediately. Notice that the writer tells us that the Spirit of the LORD was upon David *"from that day forward."* As we have said before, statements like this tell us that the writer wrote the section of Scripture long after the event. Whether the writer is Gad or Nathan, we do not know; however, Nathan will see David's resignation as king in order for Solomon to become king. Nathan will participate in the anointing of Solomon. If the writer of this passage is Nathan, he must have been older than David, which seems to be the case, as revealed in 2nd Samuel.

When the worship time was over, Samuel went back to his home in Ramah, just a short distance away, across the tribal boundary.

(2) **The Spirit Departed from Saul (16:14)**

The writer then tells us what happened to Saul. As the Spirit of the LORD came upon David, the Spirit departed from Saul. Verse 14.

"Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him." (16:14)

What does it mean when the writer says, *"an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him."* Notice that the phrase does not say "an evil spirit of the LORD" in the same sense as "the spirit of the LORD," which was now on David and once was on Saul. Instead, it is *"an evil spirit from the LORD."* It means the LORD sent the evil spirit to do his job. It was a fallen angel out of relationship with the LORD. It was not an angel in perfect relationship with the LORD. The fallen angel had followed Satan and left the LORD. What does a fallen angel do? It does evil, tempting and terrifying those whom the LORD will allow to be tempted and terrorized. Saul would therefore be demon-possessed from time to time instead of Holy Spirit possessed as David would be.

(a) **The Servant's Observation (16:15)**

The change in Saul was immediately noticed. We hear of the servant's observation. Verse 15.

"Saul's servants then said to him, 'Behold now, an evil spirit from God is terrorizing you.' (16:15)

Saul must have become a different person in his nature and character at the moment the Spirit of the LORD left him. Even his servants noticed.

(b) The Servant's Prescription (16:16)

The servant's prescription for Saul's terror was to listen to a bit of music. Verse 16.

"Let our lord now command your servants who are before you. Let them seek a man who is a skillful player on the harp; and it shall come about when the evil spirit from God is on you, that he shall play the harp with his hand, and you will be well." (16:16)

Here we come to the power of music upon the emotions of a human's internal countenance.

The counseling services of the University of Nevada, Reno, states how music affects your mood and emotion on its website.

Music can have a profound effect on both the emotions and the body. Faster music can make you feel more alert and concentrate better. Upbeat music can make you feel more optimistic and positive about life. A slower tempo can quiet your mind and relax your muscles, making you feel soothed while releasing the stress of the day. Music is effective for relaxation and stress management.

Research confirms these personal experiences with music. Current findings indicate that music around 60 beats per minute can cause the brain to synchronize with the beat causing alpha brainwaves (frequencies from 8 - 14 hertz or cycles per second). This alpha brainwave is what is present when we are relaxed and conscious. To induce sleep (a delta brainwave of 5 hertz), a person may need to devote at least 45 minutes, in a relaxed position, listening to calming music. Researchers at Stanford University have said that "listening to music seems to be able to change brain functioning to the same extent as medication." They noted that music is something that almost anybody can access and makes it an easy stress reduction tool."

So what type of music reduces stress the best? A bit surprising is that Native American, Celtic, Indian stringed-instruments, drums, and flutes are very effective at relaxing the mind even when played moderately loud. Sounds of rain, thunder, and nature sounds may also be relaxing particularly when mixed with other music, such as light jazz, classical (the "largo" movement), and easy listening music. Since with music we are rarely told the beats per minute, how do you choose the relaxation music that is best for you? The answer partly rests with you: You must first like the music being played, and then it must relax you. ... Forcing yourself to listen to relaxation music that irritates you can create tension, not reduce it. ... It is important to remember that quieting your mind does not mean you will automatically feel sleepy. It means your brain and body are relaxed, and with your new calm self, you can then function at your best in many activities.²

Isn't that interesting. Have you ever wondered how much money has been spent on discovering how music affects a person's mood and emotions? The servants of Saul knew it did the trick and absolutely no money was spent to figure that out. I wonder why any money was spent on the subject. After all, this passage in God's Word has already told us that the ancients already knew what music did on the mood and emotion of a person. All Saul needed was a harpist. Not just any harpist. He had to be a *"skillful player on the harp; ... that he shall play the harp with his hand...."* To them, if that harpist could be found, Saul *"will be well."*

² <https://www.unr.edu/counseling/virtual-relaxation-room/releasing-stress-through-the-power-of-music>

(i) Saul Agreed for a Musician (16:17-18)

What did Saul think about his servant's suggestion? Saul agreed for a musician. Verse 17.

"So Saul said to his servants, 'Provide for me now a man who can play well and bring him to me.'"¹⁸ Then one of the young men said, 'Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who is a skillful musician, a mighty man of valor, a warrior, one prudent in speech, and a handsome man; and the LORD is with him.' (16:17-18)

First, we ought to notice that, evidently, Saul's servants were *young men*. Therefore, Saul was not having this conversation with the elders of Israel. He was having it with the young men of Israel who were hired in his service as servants of some kind.

Second, we ought to notice that, the mere way this young man spoke about David meant that David already had a reputation as "*a skillful musician, a mighty man of valor, a warrior, one prudent in speech, and a handsome man; and the LORD is with him.*" Listed are six incredibly strong characteristics that are seldom attributed to a youth below the age of fifteen or sixteen. Maybe by the age of seventeen a young man might have these characteristics, but for them to be as developed as indicated in this testimony, David must have excelled in all six.

Now we must remember how our writer has laid the information out in this book, which matches the Hebrew way throughout the first nine books of the Old Testament. Hints, or we might call them seeds of information, are often sewn in the previous storylines that become important later in a new storyline. Here is just another example of that precedent. The young man presented the resume of David and he started with the fact that he was a "*skillful musician.*" Honestly, that is probably not what caught Saul's ear. It probably just flew over his head. What did Saul hear that made him want David immediately? Was it that he was "*one prudent in speech, and a handsome man; and the LORD is with him?*" It was not that at all. It was the testimony that David was "*... a mighty man of valor, a warrior....*" Why would I say that? I say that because that was the seed of information planted about Saul in chapter 14, verse 52. "*Now the war against the Philistines was severe all the days of Saul; and when Saul saw any mighty man or any valiant man, he attached him to his staff.*"¹⁹ Because of that statement about Saul in chapter 14, we know that when Saul heard that David was a "*mighty man ... valiant man,*" he wanted David attached to his staff and in his presence. The fact that he was a "*... skillful musician, one prudent in speech, and a handsome man; and the LORD is with him*" was all just extra icing on the cake. Saul wanted the warrior.

(ii) Saul Sent for the Musician (16:19)

What did Saul do when he heard about David? Saul sent for the musician. Verse 19.

"So Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, 'Send me your son David who is with the flock.' (16:19)

Somehow, Saul knew the name of the son he wanted brought to him from Jesse's home. It was David and Saul knew that he was tending Jesse's flocks. How did Saul know this? More than likely, the young servant of Saul was a friend of David. After all, they all lived within fifteen miles of each other. In addition, shepherds like David had to move their flocks from place to place where they could find cool water and green pastures for the flocks. In the winter months they had to keep them in areas that shielded the flocks from the storms, yet still out in the fields. Remember, there were no fences in those days around the property. Shepherds and herdsmen had to stay with their flocks year-round or they would wonder off.

The writer does not tell us here what Jesse and David thought about the king's order. David had been anointed to be the next king. Jesse was there when David was anointed by Samuel. Did the order strike fear in their hearts? Were they afraid of the order of King Saul? They must have

¹⁸ New American Standard Bible, 1995 Edition: Paragraph Version (La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995), 1 Sa 14:52.

thought that Saul had heard of the anointing, and might have evil intentions for David. We do not know the answers to those questions.

We might also notice one more thing in this passage. The order went to Jesse; it did not go to David. That point makes it clear that David was under twenty years of age. If David had been twenty or older, the order would have been sent to David by the king. At twenty years of age, the king could conscript any male, unless they were in their first year of marriage, or physically unable to fight in a war. David was too young; therefore, the order went to Jesse.

(a) David Arrived (16:20)

What could Jesse do as he was facing the order? He could only do his best to present David to the king. David arrived at the camp, but Jesse had sent him with a loaded donkey. Verse 20.

“Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread and a jug of wine and a young goat, and sent them to Saul by David his son.” (16:20)

We have seen gifts before in the first nine books of the Bible given to kings. It was the custom of the time in almost all of the ancient world that when a person was summoned to a king, or a high ranking royal, or if the person was the one to seek an audience with such a high and mighty one, a present was always brought to the meeting. The gifts in this case were the things that grew naturally on Jesse's property – something from his pasture being the goat, something from his field being the bread, something from his vines being the jug of wine, something from his essential equipment being the donkey to bear the burden of the load.