

## LIFE Community Sermon Notes



### *An Unlikely Choice*

#### 1 Samuel 16

##### Samuel Anoints David

1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

2 But Samuel said, "How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me."

The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."

4 Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?"

5 Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD."

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." 9 Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the LORD chosen this one."

10 Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these." 11 So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep."

Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down <sup>[a]</sup> until he arrives."

12 So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one."

13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.

## LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Sunday, April 20

**Big Idea:** Hearts are formed when we recognize God's unique design and purpose for our lives.

**Key Verse:**

*Acts 13:22*

He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'

**Opening Question:** What is the most significant thing that has happened to you in the past week?

Questions in **bold** below are suggested focus questions.  
Sections in *italics* and/or parenthesis are for the leaders.

Read the passage.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Have you ever visited the Statue of David or seen it in a picture? What did you think when you saw it?
  2. **Reflect back on this past Year of Transformation. How had you hoped to be transformed in this year?**
  3. From the passage, what were some of the exterior aspects that people might have looked for in a king?
  4. What was God's criteria for a king?
  5. **What are some exterior characteristics that people often associate with being Christian?**
  6. **What are the characteristics that God associates with being Christian?**
  7. Bryan came to three conclusions from the passage about David:
    - A) God looks at the heart of a person.
    - B) God delights in choosing unlikely people.
    - C) God has a unique design and purpose for each person.
- What does God see when He looks at your heart?
  - If God were to use you "so that no-one could boast" (1 Corinthians 1:28-29) what might He use you for?
  - How are you pursuing God's unique design and purpose for you?
8. **Write a story of what your cultivated heart (a heart after God's own heart) would look like in the real, day-to-day movement of your life. Avoid generalities and focus on a day, week or month in your life, and what a Christ-like heart would look like. After writing it, present it to God as a prayer of supplication, asking Him to create that within you. (Please see Leader's Notes for use of this question).**

Leader's Notes

1. *We begin our new series on David this week. For the next 8 weeks we will be looking at how hearts are formed. This is an ideal opportunity to look back at the discussions we have had from Change of Heart and Interior Redesign and take another few steps down the road of transformation.*
2. *Question 8 in the notes this week is really designed homework or personal use. It would be interesting to begin next week's session with some sharing of stories if people are willing.*