

Series: David: Man of Passion and Destiny

Sermon: David 1 “Only a Boy Named David”

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:24-16:13

Text: Act 13:22 “Later, God removed Saul and let David rule in his place. God said about him, ‘David the son of Jesse is the kind of person who pleases me most! He does everything I want him to do.’”

Blurb: This Sunday we begin our summer message series on David. David was a famous king in the Old Testament, ruling about 1000 B.C. He was famous for killing the giant Goliath. Yet what makes him most interesting for us today is that he was a person much like us: he had his strengths and weaknesses, successes and failures, and although he loved God with his whole heart, he struggled to follow God’s leading in every part of his life. We’re going to take a closer look at David and see how we can also become people after God’s own heart. This Sunday we’ll take a look at his childhood as the shepherd of his family’s sheep. He was chosen to be the next king of Israel while still a lad, but this only put him into harm’s way. Don’t miss this first message as we explore how what we do in our “down times” often determines how we hold up in the important times.

Sources: *David: A Man of Passion and Destiny* by Charles R. Swindoll

Bible Study notes by Bruce Moyer at Red Rock Camp, 2011

PP#1: David: Man of Passion and Destiny. Only a Boy Named David.

“Later, God removed Saul and let David rule in his place. God said about him, ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’” - Acts 13:22

David: Man of Passion and Destiny. Only a Boy Named David. Acts 13:22 “Later, God removed Saul and let David rule in his place. God said about him, ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’”

This is one of the most amazing descriptions of a person in the Bible: when God says, “A person after my own heart, doing what I want him to do.” Does that hit home with you? I want that to describe me. I want to be known as someone after God’s own heart.

Think about that. That means someone who wants what God wants, who sees things the way God sees, who is grieved and overjoyed by the same things God is. It is not just knowing *about* God, it is having the same heart of God. That only comes with a devotion to God over time, a hunger for the ways of God. That doesn’t come overnight. It’s an ongoing relationship, vibrant and passionate.

Wouldn’t that be a great description to have on your tombstone? “Here lies the body of David Werner, a man after God’s own heart.” How awesome to be known like that before you die!

Only one person is described this way in the Bible. And it is not anyone who knew Jesus. We have to go deep in the Old Testament to find him. I was named after him. Who is it? [David!]

All this year here at Forest Hills we are focusing on growing spiritually. We want to grow more into the people, and the church, that God wants us to be. That means we change. We can’t stay the way we are. We have committed to grow. To grow spiritually means not being content with the way you are right now. It means desiring to improve, to change, to grow. Are you open to this?

So, today we’re starting our summer series, and we’re taking a closer look at one of the people the Bible says grew into God’s intention. David is by no means perfect. In fact, he makes some very grave mistakes and judgments. He’s actually a lot like you and I. He has strengths and weaknesses. But over time, David’s heart grows like God’s. And in David we see that it is devotion,

not perfection, that is the secret of living a life that is pleasing to God. So, by spending some time with the biblical David, we're going to discover how our hearts can grow after God's.

PP#2: *Images of David: shepherd boy, killing Goliath, soldier, dancing in his ephod, as king, etc.*

So, take just a few seconds, and turn to your neighbor and share with them one thing you know about David in the Bible. One thing. There are some images on the screens to refresh your memory. If you can't think of anything, share, "Pastor David was named after him." OK? Go!

[Pause.]

So, did you learn anything new about David? What? [Sharing.]

PP#3: Old Testament Timeline:

| | | | | | |
|---------|--------|--------|--------------|------------------|--------|
| Abraham | Moses | Samuel | David | Israel Conquered | Jesus |
| Joseph | Judges | Saul | Solomon | Judah Conquered | |
| ----- | | | | | |
| 2,000 | 1,500 | 1,070 | 1,000 | 722 586 | 4 B.C. |

Well, knowing who David was means placing him in the story of the Israelites in the Old Testament. God decided to solve the problem of human sin. So, 2,000 years before Jesus, God chose Abraham to be the ancestor of a new people. He sent him to a new land, which we today call Israel. Abraham's grandson moved the family down to Egypt to escape famine, and they stayed there for 400 years. Eventually they become slaves, and God raises up Moses to lead them out of Egypt and back to the land God had promised to them in Abraham. It takes them 40 years to finally get there, and they have to fight their way in. For the next 400 years, they were led by various leaders the Bible calls judges. Samuel is the last judge, and it's about 1100 B.C.

The people finally clamor enough, begging God to give them a king. So, God relents and tells Samuel to anoint Saul as king over all the Israelites. Saul was an early success, but sadly he begins to waffle. He gets superstitious and starts worshiping the gods of the other peoples around them. He goes back and forth, worshiping God and other gods. Finally, God puts Saul to the test: go fight the enemy, but keep nothing of value for yourself as plunder. Will he obey, or will he be greedy?

PP#4: 1 Samuel 15

9 Saul and the troops spared Agag along with the best sheep, cattle, fattened calves, lambs, and everything of value. They weren't willing to put them under the ban; but anything that was despised or of no value they placed under the ban. 10 Then the Lord's word came to Samuel: 11 "I regret making Saul king because he has turned away from following me and hasn't done what I said." Samuel was upset at this, and he prayed to the Lord all night long.

Turn to 1 Samuel 15. Here we are in the middle of the story of Saul as king. Let's start with verse 9. "Saul and the troops spared [the enemy king] Agag along with the best sheep, cattle, fattened calves, lambs, and everything of value. They weren't willing to put them under the ban [as God commanded, the "ban" means killing them as a way of giving them up to God rather than keeping it for themselves]; but anything that was despised or of no value they placed under the ban. Then the Lord's word came to Samuel: "I regret making Saul king because he has turned away from following me and hasn't done what I said." [Remember that phrase, "hasn't done what I said."] Samuel was upset at this, and he prayed to the Lord all night long.

PP#5: 1 Samuel 15

13 When Samuel reached Saul, Saul greeted him, “The Lord bless you! I have done what the Lord said.”

14 “Then what,” Samuel asked, “is this bleating of sheep in my ears and mooing of cattle I hear?”

15 “They were taken from the Amalekites,” Saul said, “because the troops spared the best sheep and cattle in order to sacrifice them to the Lord your God. The rest was placed under the ban.”

The next morning Samuel goes out to meet Saul. Verse 13. “When Samuel reached Saul, Saul [–surprised to see him–] greeted him, ‘The Lord bless you! I have done what the Lord said.’

[Oh really?] “‘Then what,’ Samuel asked, ‘is this bleating of sheep in my ears and mooing of cattle I hear?’” [What a great line! I love Samuel’s response! Saul quickly makes up an excuse...]

“‘They were taken from the Amalekites,’ Saul said, [watch his ingenious coverup!] ‘because the troops spared the best sheep and cattle in order to sacrifice them to the Lord your God. The rest was placed under the ban.’”

PP#6: 1 Samuel 15

23 “Rebellion is as bad as the sin of divination; arrogance is like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected what the Lord said, He has rejected you as king.”

Saul kept the plunder for himself, and when caught, quickly made up the excuse about keeping them as sacrifices to God. Once again, Saul waffled. But God had had enough. Verse 23, God tells Samuel to tell Saul, “Rebellion is as bad as the sin of divination, arrogance is like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected what the Lord said, He has rejected you as king.” And tragically, from then on, Saul slips deeper and deeper into darkness, depression, and demonic oppression...maybe even possession!

PP#7: *Image of Michelangelo’s statue, David*

Enter “Only a Boy Named David.” Anyone here know that song? It’s a children’s song about David defeating the giant Goliath. Of course, it was my favorite song growing up! Michelangelo carves David as a teenager, but more realistically he was a tween-ager, I think, when he faced Goliath.

In an obscure village named Bethlehem, six miles south of what would one day be Jerusalem, there was a man named Jesse. He had eight sons. The first seven are big, strong, and robust, each with great qualities. The youngest, however, is dismissed to the fields nearby to serve as the family’s shepherd. It’s not a pleasant job: you live for days alone out in the hills, and when you do come home, you constantly smell like sheep. Being the youngest, David gets stuck with it. Ug.

God tells Samuel to go to Bethlehem to anoint a new king to someday replace Saul. When he arrives, the locals freak out. What is the great Samuel doing here? Are we in trouble? Samuel calms them down and leads them in some religious rituals. But then he takes a particular interest in the sons of Jesse.

PP#8: 1 Samuel 16

1 The Lord said to Samuel, “How long are you going to grieve over Saul? I have rejected him

as king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and get going. I'm sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem because I have found my next king among his sons."

2 "How can I do that?" Samuel asked. "When Saul hears of it he'll kill me!"

"Take a heifer with you," the Lord replied, "and say, 'I have come to make a sacrifice to the Lord.' 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will make clear to you what you should do. You will anoint for me the person I point out to you."

1 Samuel 16. Starting with the first verse. "The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long are you going to grieve over Saul? I have rejected him as king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and get going. I'm sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem because I have found my next king among his sons.'

"How can I do that?' Samuel asked. 'When Saul hears of it he'll kill me!' [I mean, wouldn't that be considered treason?]

"Take a heifer with you,' the Lord replied, 'and say, 'I have come to make a sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will make clear to you what you should do. You will anoint for me the person I point out to you.'

PP#9: 1 Samuel 16

4 Samuel did what the Lord instructed. When he came to Bethlehem, the city elders came to meet him. They were shaking with fear. "Do you come in peace?" they asked.

5 "Yes," Samuel answered. "I've come to make a sacrifice to the Lord. Now make yourselves holy, then come with me to the sacrifice." Samuel made Jesse and his sons holy and invited them to the sacrifice as well.

6 When they arrived, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, that must be the Lord's anointed right in front.

So, verse 4, "Samuel did what the Lord instructed. When he came to Bethlehem, the city elders came to meet him. They were shaking with fear. 'Do you come in peace?' they asked.

"Yes,' Samuel answered. 'I've come to make a sacrifice to the Lord. Now make yourselves holy, then come with me to the sacrifice.' Samuel made Jesse and his sons holy and invited them to the sacrifice as well. When they arrived, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, that must be the Lord's anointed right in front."

OK. Here comes the tall, dark and handsome. He's strong and skilled. Smart, impressive. This looks like what a king ought to look like.

But God says he's not the one. And these famous words that God says to Samuel, we desperately still need to hear.

PP#10: 1 Samuel 16

7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Have no regard for his appearance or stature, because I haven't selected him. God doesn't look at things like humans do. Humans see only what is visible to the eyes, but the Lord sees into the heart."

Verse 7. "But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Have no regard for his appearance or stature, because I haven't selected him. God doesn't look at things like humans do. Humans see only what is visible to the eyes, but the Lord sees into the heart.'"

PP#11: Only a Boy Named David

1. God sees the heart

Wow, we need to hear this truth. People look at what the eyes can see. We are impressed with looks, appearances. But God doesn't look at things like humans do. Listen, Church, you need to write this one down. With your order of worship, your bulletin, is a yellow half sheet with room for notes. Write this verse down. "God doesn't look at things like humans do."

We live in a culture drowning in looks. So much of how we see our value, our identity, is tied up in how our culture gives value to looks. Don't buy the lie! Your importance is not based on what you look like. It's not tied to what is ageing, changing, being defeated by gravity. It's not based on what you wear or what you drive or where you go. It's so everywhere that we don't even notice its power. My cousin remarked to me two days ago, "I can't get a minivan, even if it is exactly what I need. There's just no way to be cool in a minivan."

Who you are, what's important about you—to God, who is the only being you should care to impress—isn't what we spend most of our time gaging our value by.

PP12: *An image for how it is the heart that is important rather than outward appearances.*

God is concerned not with your clothes, not with your career, not with your comfort, not with your celebrity status. God is concerned with your character.

When God went looking for His next king, He went looking for a heart that was devoted to Him. Saul's heart was divided. God is looking for someone after His own heart. God goes heart inspecting!

Don't buy the lie, church! What God is concerned about is on the inside. And as we will learn with David, God isn't impressed with what we can and can't do, because if God can find someone radically in love with Him, then He can empower you to do what God needs you to do. Stop condemning yourself for how you're not good enough. God asks the question, is your heart devoted to Him.

PP#13: *Image for a parent concerned about his child's character/heart.*

A specific word to parents. I'm a dad. This is hitting me pretty hard. Parents, the most important goal of parenting, besides showing them Jesus, is to help our kids see their worth, not by their looks, or by their accomplishments, or by their abilities, but by how God sees their hearts. We need to spend less effort making sure they have every opportunity and advantage, and more effort shaping their characters. God will provide the opportunities.

I want to call us to do something with our kids. Let's commit to having a heart-to-heart with our kids sometime this week. Write this down so you don't forget! Talk with them about how God looks on the heart. Tell them that the most important thing is that they open their hearts for God. Perhaps you need to repent to them of ways that you have reinforced the value of appearances. Perhaps you need to be honest and admit how you struggle with this, too. Perhaps you could ask your kids to help identify ways that you can better reinforce what God sees. But have the heart-to-heart. Be sure you share your heart that you want their heart to be after God's heart. And, even if you have adults children, perhaps you could do it, too, right? It's never too late! Or other people who are close to you...coworkers, friends, etc.

Repeat after me, "The Lord sees into the heart!"

Again! "The Lord sees into the heart!"

One more time! "The Lord sees into the heart!"

PP#14: 1 Samuel 16

8 Next Jesse called for Abinadab, who presented himself to Samuel, but he said, “The Lord hasn’t chosen this one either.” 9 So Jesse presented Shammah, but Samuel said, “No, the Lord hasn’t chosen this one.” 10 Jesse presented seven of his sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord hasn’t picked any of these.” 11 Then Samuel asked Jesse, “Is that all of your boys?”

“There is still the youngest one,” Jesse answered, “but he’s out keeping the sheep.”

Verse 8. “Next Jesse called for Abinadab, who presented himself to Samuel, but he said, ‘The Lord hasn’t chosen this one either.’ So Jesse presented Shammah, but Samuel said, ‘No, the Lord hasn’t chosen this one.’ Jesse presented seven of his sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord hasn’t picked any of these.’ Then Samuel asked Jesse, ‘Is that all of your boys?’

“‘There is still the youngest one,’ Jesse answered, ‘but he’s out keeping the sheep.’”

I tell you, I feel for poor David. Man, he’s been forgotten! His father didn’t see him as king material. He didn’t bother summoning him from the fields. I know, that was a long and involved process...it’s not like they had cell phones you know. But still. I keep thinking about the Cinderella story!

Parents: be very careful not to play favorites with your kids. Yes, each kid is different, and some are easier for you to talk to and do things with, than others. One of your kids may share more of your interests than another. But that doesn’t make any of them more or less valuable. You model what it means to look at the heart by how you communicate with each one of your kids that their value to you not based on what they look like, do or don’t do. Parents, tell each of your kids what is special about them to you. We can do that when we have our heart-to-hearts. Write that down, too!

PP#15: 1 Samuel 16

11 Then Samuel asked Jesse, “Is that all of your boys?”

“There is still the youngest one,” Jesse answered, “but he’s out keeping the sheep.”

“Send for him,” Samuel told Jesse, “because we can’t proceed until he gets here.”

12 So Jesse sent and brought him in. He was reddish brown, had beautiful eyes, and was good-looking. The Lord said, “That’s the one. Go anoint him.” 13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him right there in front of his brothers. The Lord’s spirit came over David from that point forward. Then Samuel left and went to Ramah.

You know, I find it ironic that after making the point that appearances aren’t important to God, that this passage goes on to describe how good David’s appearance was! Samuel says he was nicely tanned and was a good looking young lad. Some people think that this reveals how Samuel hadn’t got God’s point yet. But I think it’s Samuel’s ways of talking David up. I think he’s making the point that even though the others may not have thought so, and probably were embarrassed that David was a smelly shepherd, Samuel noted he was just as fine looking as the rest. And somehow David’s eyes captured Samuel’s attention. The eyes, after all, are considered the window to the heart. And Samuel is letting on that he could tell he had a good heart.

PP#16: Only a Boy Named David

1. God sees the heart
2. God sees the overlooked

A main theme in the David story, and we will see this during the weeks ahead, is that God sees the overlooked. David is written off, forgotten. Yet God seeks him out. Again and again, God chooses the least likely, the forgotten, the nobodies. David is a shepherd, the youngest of an obscure family in a tiny and remote village. This is the next king! What was David's qualification? Not his abilities or impressive qualities. He had a heart after God's own heart. And notice, God sent His Spirit to fill David from that time on. God's Spirit is given to enable David to do what he needed.

Do you feel like you're not very important? Like you're forgotten? Invisible? That when you compare yourself to others, you always see just how much you are lacking or not good enough? Well, God sees the overlooked. He makes time to go after—waits for—people like you! Jesus told the story of how the Good Shepherd leaves the 99 and goes after the one that is lost and unnoticed. It's not about how good you are compared to others. It's about the Spirit that God puts within you that enables you to be and do all that God needs from you. All God wants is a heart seeking Him.

“The Lord sees into the heart!”

PP#17: Only a Boy Named David

1. God sees the heart
2. God sees the overlooked
3. God redeems “wasted” time as preparation

One last point. I think of all those months, probably years, that David was out with the sheep on the hillside. That must have seemed like such a waste of time. No schooling, no apprenticeship, no training. Certainly this is not how kings should be brought up. Or is it?

David learned to care for sheep, seeking their needs above his. Not a bad quality for a king. David learned to protect the sheep, honing his skills with a sling against all kinds of wild animals. His ability with this crude weapon will play a crucial role in next week's story! And he passed the time playing his lyre, composing songs and writing poetry: exercising his right side of his brain!

The next story we see about David in the Bible—the rest of 1 Samuel 16—is that King Saul is going in and out of moods. One of his attendants suggests that perhaps a musician should be called in to play soothing music for the king. Another one says that he recalled passing through Bethlehem one time and there was a youth there who could play the lyre very sweetly.

You guessed it...David. And so he is called to the king's service as a musician. And it works! His playing brings some relief to the king. And notice, David, in the process, gains exposure and experience in the royal court.

It wasn't wasted time. What we may want to call wasted time—down time—is time that God can use as preparation, depending on how we use it. Be careful not to fill all your down time with TV, online games, youtube videos, and other kinds of self-entertainment. Your wasted time is also God's, and God may be wanting to use some of that time to prepare you for other things. Take up a hobby, a leisure activity, a skill development. These are potential that God can turn into possibilities.

PP#18: Michelangelo's David...close up of the face/head.

God sees the heart. Your value comes not from what you do, but where your heart lies.

God sees the overlooked. You don't need to be important. God will give you His Spirit to do what God needs you to do.

And God redeems wasted time as preparation. Be careful how you spend your down time. Becoming people after God's own heart. Is that the desire of your heart?

“Only a Boy Named David.” So small. So insignificant. Yet his heart is seeking God’s. And that’s what makes him the true giant, as we will see next time.

David the shepherd wrote Psalm 23:

1 The Lord is my shepherd.

I lack nothing.

2 He lets me rest in grassy meadows;

he leads me to restful waters;

3 he keeps me alive.

He guides me in proper paths

for the sake of his good name.

4 Even when I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no danger because you are with me.

Your rod and your staff—

they protect me.

5 You set a table for me

right in front of my enemies.

You bathe my head in oil;

my cup is so full it spills over!

6 Yes, goodness and faithful love

will pursue me all the days of my life,

and I will live in the Lord’s house

as long as I live.

Amen!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR JULY 10, 2016

Sermon: “Only a Boy Named David”

Scripture: 1 Samuel 14-15

Opening prayer

Introductions: Share about what you know about sheep and shepherds.

Background: Skim 1 Samuel 14. Share what you know about Saul as king.

1. The people thought Saul was their best man to be their king. On what qualities did they base their choice? (Consult 1 Samuel 9:2, 10:20-24.)

Read: 1 Samuel 15

2. Think back on your high school year book. If Saul had been in your class, he most certainly would have been voted, “Most likely to succeed.” What do you think was the central reason for his failure?

3. How would you assess Saul’s leadership as king, using this passage as a guide?

Read: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

4. Do qualities of character help us get far in the world? What does our world value?

5. How has God trained you through solitude, obscurity, and monotony?

6. How do you tend to evaluate teenagers? Do you tend to measure them by externals?

7. God looks at your heart. How does this help you see who you really are?

8. What do you need to do to see other people the way God does?

Read: 1 Samuel 16:14-23

9. David is called upon to serve the man whom he will one day replace. In what ways could David have been tempted to use this situation for his own benefit?

10. Is there a King Saul in your life? Describe that person. How does this passage help you with him or her?

11. Application: What will you take away from this passage? How will you live it out?