

A Man After God's Own Heart – 1 Samuel

1 Samuel 16:1-23

"God Looks at the Heart" – July 30, 2017



Introduction

Israel had set out on a leadership experiment back in chapter 8 thinking it was time for something new. When they rejected God as king and demanded a king like all the nations, they got what they wanted. Saul was head and shoulders taller than anyone in Israel, handsome, and from a rich family. But even though he looked like he had what it took to lead a nation on the *outside*, on the inside Saul lacked what it took. In chapters 13-15 we saw the sad tale of Saul rebelling against God over and over. In the end, Saul's persistent rejection of God's word meant God would reject him as king ([1 Samuel 15:26](#)). The prophet Samuel grieved over Saul's sin and what it meant for the nation. What were they to do next? What do you do when you realize you have the wrong guy sitting on the throne and you can't see *who* can lead the nation as God wants? 1 Samuel 16 reminds us that just because we cannot see the way forward, doesn't mean we lack hope. We walk by faith, not by sight ([2 Corinthians 5:7](#)). Follow along as God sheds light on how to navigate the dark path we cannot make on our own.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response.

Sermon Outline

- I. Follow God: His Word Alone is our Guide (16:1-13)
- II. Trust God: We Can't Always see the Good God is Doing (16:14-23)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [1 Samuel 16:1-13](#)

We open the chapter with Samuel grieving, and God lovingly, tenderly calling him to move on to what's next. Samuel's grief is appropriate, but how does God's sovereignty (in control, has a plan) help pull him out of his grief? As you look at trials you've gone through (or are currently facing), how does the fact that God sympathizes with our pain *and* is sovereign over all things bring comfort and help?

Take some time to chew on [1 Samuel 16:7](#). Like Samuel, we need to learn to see life and make decisions based on God's perspective. Do you find yourself tempted to make judgment based on exteriors (beauty, position, wealth, etc.)? What are the effects that come with comparing yourself with others based on those criteria? God has a different economy than that of the world. As a result, living by His evaluation of things means we need to know what He says (in the Bible) *and* to trust that it is right. What are ways you are striving to grow in your understanding of God's word and how it shapes all your life?

What role to other church members and elders/pastors play in our knowing, understanding, and believing God's word in this way?

Additional reading: Psalm 56:8, Romans 8:28, Proverbs 14:12, 2 Corinthians 5:16

2) Read [1 Samuel 16:14-23](#)

David is anointed as king, but Saul remains on the throne and David goes back to the sheep to serve as shepherd. The text gives no indication that David knows what God is up to or how God will transition David from the sheepfold to the throne (especially with Saul is sitting on that throne!). As Proverbs 20:24 reminds us "A man's steps are from the Lord; how then can man understand his way?" David models for us the importance of being faithful with what is in front of us when we don't know what God is doing: whether playing his harp for the sheep or for the king. What does faithfulness look like for you at this point in your life: as a student, parent, employee, retiree, church member, etc.? How does David's story in this chapter encourage us when we can't see what God is up to?

Additional reading: Psalm 37, Philippians 2:4-11

Prayer of Response

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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