

## Introduction to David Series 1 Samuel 16

### “DEEPER IN CHARACTER “

In uncertain times like this it's a blessing to know we worship the one who is always dependable, who never changes. The circumstances in which we live may change, but we worship one who is the same yesterday today and forever.

So we are starting a new series called Deeper in Character. We are going to be working through the life of King David as we see it recorded in the OT. And the reason why we are focussing on this lines up with our vision for SCC for this year. As I mentioned last week, **our vision as a church is all about the kind of people we are becoming – that we are centring ourselves on Jesus, and fixing our eyes on him. And the life of David will help us do that.**

Because God himself refers to David as a man after his own heart. He is the only person in all of scripture to be referred to that way. So we want to understand what it was about David, this man after Gods own heart, that made him someone that God was pleased with, someone he trusted to use and guide his

Here is Pastor Bryce giving us the historical context. Israel as a nation was in decline. Sadly for years they had been on a slow, long drift away from God. Eli had been the high priest for a long time, then he put his sons in charge - and they were **terrible**. So God raised up the prophet Samuel, who led Israel for a long time, but then Samuel appointed his sons in his place - and **they** were terrible. The people had become disillusioned, and they wanted something done about it. So they asked God for a king. And God gave them one – Saul. Saul was 30 years old when he became king. He was quite an imposing figure, he's described as standing head and shoulders higher than any of the others in Israel. He was also quite a charismatic figure, but eventually showed himself to be very thin-skinned, hot tempered, and ultimately unfaithful to God. God had to set King Saul aside.

When David was born, Saul had been king for about 10 years by that stage. And as the young boy grew, God had his hand on his life. Let's have a look at 3 key points how God was preparing him for his future role as King.

#### **1. The Quiet work of Isolation**

The very first time we see David in the OT, he is living in obscurity. God had rejected Saul as king, and the prophet Samuel has been sent by God to Bethlehem to visit one particular family. God told Samuel that it was going to be one of Jesse's sons who was to be anointed as the future king of Israel. So Jesse is asked to assemble his family, and the prophet Samuel turns up.

**READ: - 1 Samuel 16:1-7**

**QUESTION: - In what ways can you relate to Samuel's fear in following God's commands? How can you overcome this fear? (Discuss it)**

According to Pastor Bryce, it does a bit strange that Samuel, who had become hugely disappointed by Saul, who appeared to be so mighty in his appearance but ended up being a terrible king, that Samuel would then be so quick to judge another man by the same standard. But when God chooses a leader after his own heart, he won't choose that person by their outward appearance.

**QUESTION: - What can you learn from God's refusal of Jesse's older sons and selection of David? (Discuss it)**

**READ: - 1 Samuel 16:11-13**

**QUESTION: - Why do you think God chose to anoint David while Saul was still king? What might this teach us about God's timing? ( Discuss it)**

**READ: - 1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-29**

There was something in the isolation of Davids life, and even in the rejection he was experiencing in his life, that was forming him into someone special. I think it unfortunately did end up having some kind of a toll on him – in later life when he was rejected he did have a tendency to over-react. But we see the young David, rather than being bitter about it, he made God part of it and saw God as his own shepherd.

Maybe for you, you are afraid that you will be overlooked. You've got the dreaded FOMO – fear of missing out. Maybe there is an assignment you have in your life, but there have been difficulties.

We know that sometimes it can be hard to remain in the assignment we've been given until God changes our circumstances. If that's you, here's something I'd like you to write down: **It is impossible to be overlooked by God**; he sees what no one else sees, and it all matters.

**READ: - 2 CHRONICLES 16:9**

**It is impossible to be overlooked by God.** But - it **is** possible to be **rejected** for leadership by God. Because he sees the hidden motives of the heart. And in the isolation of his life, God was forming the future king of Israel, the one through whom the promised messiah would eventually come.

## **2. The Quiet work of Courage**

When we look at the young David we see the importance in having courage and being a person of integrity in the unseen things. Here's a snippet of David talking with King Saul:

**READ: - 1 Samuel 17:34-36**

To a shepherd, each sheep has value. So David's attitude was – that lion's not going to take my sheep, it's either him or me. So he runs after the lion, it turns on David, but David kills it and rescues the sheep. Another time, it's a bear, and he does exactly the same thing to it – he goes after it to rescue the sheep. Don't forget that hungry lions and bears are all fangs and claws when it comes to getting between them and their prey, they are terrifying and it's a life and death situation. But David was living out the shepherds calling, to care for the sheep, even to put his life on the line for their wellbeing.

**READ: - PSALM 23**

Psalm 23 can be a game changer for you and I. If we can take this on board in our own lives, it makes us fearless as **we** approach uncertain times. That in **every** season, in every circumstance, the God who is the creator, he is also my shepherd and cares for me. He watches over us as we faithfully carry out our tasks and says to you and I today, *"I know where you are, and I know how to find you. Just stay ready as you carry out your job, and at the right time when you least expect it, the change to your assignment will come"*.

**QUESTION: - Do you have faith like David in God's promises for you? (DISCUSS IT!)**

**QUESTION: - How can you relate to David's humble beginnings before his rise to greatness?**

## **3. The Quiet work of Responsibility**

It is significant what David chose to do after having been anointed by Samuel. The prophet had indicated that David was to be the future king of Israel. But look at what we read a few verses later:

**READ: - 1 Samuel 16:18-19; 17:15**

David played and sang, King Saul found peace as God's presence filled that place. And then as soon as the big moment was over and they turned out the lights, he was humbly back with his sheep. In fact, David had to actually be pulled from the sheep to get him to do anything that was in the limelight.

**QUESTION: - How can David's willingness to serve in Saul's court inspire us to humble service today? (DISCUSS IT!)**

That's why David was a man after God's own heart. He was he was approachable, he was authentic, and he was **always faithful** in the little things. In closing, in the quiet work of isolation, the quiet work of courage, and the quiet work of responsibility, God was forming this nobody into someone nobody expected.

**QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:**

**How can the narrative of David's rise to kingship offer comfort or inspiration in times of uncertainty or obscurity?**

**How might you live differently knowing that God values your heart condition over your societal status or accomplishments?**

**Describe a time in your life where you expected one thing, but God delivered in unexpected ways.**