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The Kingdom of Israel

King David 1st Samuel 16:3-7

A year through the Bible

April 23, 2023

Scriptures:

Focus on: 1 Samuel 16:3–7 (ESV) (Starting on page 256 in the chair Bibles.)

Series Opening:

We have been on a journey through the Bible. We have looked at our origin stories, The Beginning. We have looked at the origin stories of our Judeo-Christian movement, The Called-out Ones. We are now moving into the stories of humanity’s societies and purpose, The Kingdom of Israel.

Today we will look at the story of King David being called by God to lead.

Opening Illustration:

We are about to move into a series of stories about kings. Leadership. I want to give you up front the way all the kings of old fall.

It’s a cycle. God identifies a humble heart. They gain affluence. They begin to have spiritual amnesia. They lean into arrogant autonomy. Cut off from the vine of life, they fall.

How the kings of old fall. (I would love the graph below on the screen.)

We are entering this text as King Saul is in his descent and God is looking for a new humble heart.

Text:

1 Samuel 16:3–7 (ESV)

And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you.” Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” And he said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is before him.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” [[1]](#footnote-2)

* Notice a few things. First, Saul has separated himself from God and his demise is of his own making.
* The prophet Samuel assumes a new king will look like the last king. Eliab looked the part. To choose rightly Samuel must keep close to God.
* God is not looking for the attributes man looks for. God is looking at the heart.
* This leads to a great question. What is a “good heart”?
  + I asked some of my staff what popular culture would say and googled the question. Here is what they came up with.
  + A good-hearted person according to popular culture: Authentic to their real self, well-intentioned, kind (meaning that they let others be true to their authentic selves too), generous, tolerant.
  + What does the Bible say is a good heart? The Fear of the Lord. Literally, prime respect for God and his ways. Psalm 111:10; Psalm 119:9; Proverbs 9:10; Proverbs 14:2; Proverbs 15:33; Proverbs 1:7; Isaiah 33:6
  + Let’s back up in the Biblical story and read the prime rubric by God to his leaders given to Joshua.
    - Joshua 1:6–8 (ESV)

Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. [[2]](#footnote-3)

* + What is God asking Joshua to do in strength and courage? Put God, his ways, values, and kingdom first. Ruthlessly fight against distractions and keep your connection with God above all.
* A good heart is a humble, unhurried heart before the Lord.

Final Thoughts:

Let’s be honest.

Leadership = busyness. To break the cycle of corruption that takes out kings we must go to war against our rightly ordered priorities.

If Satan can’t steal your heart, he will steal your time. A busy distracted heart is much easier to lead astray. We must take on our “hustle”.

Let me define rest. I don’t mean secular down time.

Like the kings of old too many of us ruthlessly eliminate hurry (the stress) to make time for more…noise. King David stayed home from his work and makes time to stare at Bethesda. We, exhausted from a work week, stay home Sundays to binge Netflix. This swapping of unhealth for unhealth shapes us into the kind of leaders that will fail.

Real rest will rightly place you before God.

Right use of power (leadership) must come from a healthy heart.

“Jesus knew His limits well. Strange as it may seem, He knew what we conveniently forget: time must be properly budgeted for the gathering of inner strength and resolve in order to compensate for one’s weaknesses when spiritual warfare begins.” -Gordon McDonald

“You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life.”-Dallas Willard

“Hurry is not of the devil; hurry is the devil.” -Carl Jung

How do you be a good leader? You ruthlessly work to push back the things that distract you from rhythms that keep your heart right with God.

Next Steps:

What is encroaching in on your time with the Lord and what can you do about it?

1. [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](https://ref.ly/logosres/esv?ref=BibleESV.1Sa16.3-7). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](https://ref.ly/logosres/esv?ref=BibleESV.Jos1.6-8). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)