

The Life of David #1

Anointed as King

1Sam 16:1-13

Introduction:

1. David has left a huge footprint in the Bible
2. His life story takes up a large portion of Scripture and much of the book of Psalms has his signature
3. Though he lived 30 centuries ago, his life is still very relevant to us
4. The basic problems of life do not change and so Bible biographies, such as the life of David are most instructive for us
5. David was a man who wore many hats - a king, a warrior, and a shepherd as most realize
6. The Biblical record of the life of David begins with his anointing by the prophet Samuel to be the king of Israel
7. The first mentions of David occur in the book of Ruth where he is mentioned twice as the great grandson of Ruth

I. CONDITIONS FOR THE ANOINTING – VS 1

- The anointing of David by Samuel came when the conditions in Israel were bleak
- The bleak conditions underscored the need for a new king in Israel
- Bad times do not indicate that God is weak and has lost control of things, but rather than man is weak and has lost control of things
- God is always in control and when things are at their worst, God can step in and provide deliverance and straighten things out
- David would be a contrast to King Saul and God's people will always be different from the evil people of the world

A. *The Mourning of the Prophet*

1 And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with

oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

1. Reasons for the Mourning

a) *Rebellion of Saul*

- (1) One reason Samuel mourned for Saul was the rebellion of Saul
- (2) Saul had begun as king of Israel with much promise as Israel's first king
- (3) The great victory over the Amorites showed Saul's military courage and skill
 - (a) *But shortly after the victory, Saul began to rebel against God*
 - (b) *He would not wait for the prophet (Samuel) to show up to make the appointed sacrifice but he did the forbidden and offered the sacrifice himself*
- (4) Saul rebelled when he fought the Amalekites when he did not follow God's instructions
- (5) Godly Samuel was so upset that "he cried all night to the Lord"

b) *Rejection of Saul*

- (1) Saul's rebellion against God led to his rejection from the throne by God
- (2) Rebellion against God always leads to rejection by God
1Sam 13:14 – "thy kingdom shall not continue"
1Sa 15:26 ... thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.
- (3) The rejection of King Saul as king opened the door for David to be king one day

2. Rebuke for the Mourning – vs 1

1 And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul...

a) *God rebuked Samuel for his mourning for Saul*

b) *It was not a rebuke for mourning per se, but it was a rebuke for mourning too much*

- c) *This question is condemning for Samuel for God never asks this question unless one is questioning His providence or unless the tears have blinded one to his duty*
 - d) *Sorrow, no matter how reasonable and becoming may be carried too far*
 - (1) It may make us unfit for duty
 - (2) It may darken our hope in God
 - (3) It may disturb our peace or weaken our energies
 - e) *Samuel focused too much on Saul (which produced despondency) and not enough on God (who would encourage hope)*
3. Remedy for the Mourning – vs 1
- 1... fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite...**
- a) *God took care of this excess mourning by giving Samuel a job to do*
 - b) *When troubles cause us to sorrow, we will be victims of sorrow if we just sit and brood over the sad developments in our lives*
 - c) *One of the worst things we can do in a time of sorrow is to sit and do nothing*
 - d) *If sorrow is dominating your life seek out your divine duty and get busy doing it*
 - e) *Samuel needed to stop mourning and start moving*

B. The Misery of the People

- 1. Samuel was not the only one who was mourning
- 2. Many in Israel were mourning because King Saul was such a poor leader
 - a) *1Sa 14:29 Then said Jonathan, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey.*
 - b) *Pr 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.*
- 3. Like a poor leader, Saul encouraged evil in the land and evil brings

misery, not happiness

C. Madness of the Prince

1. After David was anointed by Samuel the madness of Saul became much more evident – 1Sam 16:14
14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.
2. This resulted in erratic and threatening behavior by Saul
 - a) *Throwing the javelin at David twice*
 - b) *Continually hunting David*
 - c) *Ordering the killing of the priests*
 - d) *Going to a witch for help*

The Conditions Before the Anointing....

II. COMMAND FOR THE ANOINTING – VS 2-5

- God's command to Samuel to get moving and anoint David to be the next king has some important lessons for us

A. Preparation in the Command – vs 1

1... fill thine horn with oil...

1. Samuel needed to prepare so that he could fulfil his duty
2. To be able to anoint David as the new king of Israel Samuel must prepare by putting some oil in his flask / cruet
3. Preachers need to apply this exhortation to their ministry of preaching
 - a) *So many preachers enter the pulpit with an empty horn – they don't have much of a message*
 - b) *Preachers need to stay in God's Word long enough to have a message for their people*
 - c) *Samuel would have been foolish to go to Bethlehem with an empty horn – he could not have done any anointing*

B. Providing in the Command – vs 1

1 ...I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

1. God is the Great Provider
2. When Abraham needed a lamb to take the place of Isaac on the altar he said, “God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering.” That providing was so impressive that Abraham named that area Jehovah-jireh
3. When Israel was oppressed in Egypt God provided a deliverer in the person of Moses
4. When Israel was about to enter the promised land, God provided a great leader named Joshua
5. When the gospel was to be carried to the Gentiles God provided Paul

C. Prophecy in the Command – vs 1

1... for I have provided me a king among his sons.

1. This statement is a great prophetic statement
2. It had both an immediate fulfillment and a future fulfillment
 - a) *The immediate fulfillment would be in David*
 - b) *The future fulfillment would be in Jesus*
3. Someday, Jesus, the King of kings will sit on the throne

D. Protest About the Command – vs 2

2 And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD.

1. The Excuse of Samuel
 - a) *God gave him a command but Samuel countered by giving an excuse for not obeying the command*
 - b) *Samuel’s protest was an excuse for not obeying God*
 - c) *When God gives us commands and we protest obeying them, then we act as though we know more than God*
 - d) *Our excuses may sound very plausible, as did Samuel’s excuse, but there is no excuse for disobeying God*
 - e) *If many soldiers have died in battle when they were obeying their commander, then how much more ought we be willing to obey our Commander*

2. The Evil of Saul

- a) *Samuel's protest shows us just how evil King Saul had become*
- b) *Samuel knew King Saul well and yet he feared for his life*
- c) *No one was exempted from Saul's mad and murderous decrees*
- d) *In 1Sam22 many priests were killed at the order of Saul*
- e) *The longer he reigned the greater his evil*
- f) *He rejected God's Word and he rejected God*
- g) *When one rejects God's Word then his life will only become increasingly decadent*

3. The Example of Salvation

2 And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear *it*, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD.

- a) *Samuel was under the threat of death but God in mercy provided a means through which Samuel could escape death*
- b) *The means was a sacrifice which was ordered and planned by God*
- c) *The sinner is under a death sentence because of sin and he is saved by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ*
- d) *The sinner is saved by the sacrifice that is ordered and planned by God*

4. The Explanation of Secrecy

- a) *Some may see this sacrifice as a matter of lying and deception*
- b) *Samuel was not deceiving Saul for he was going to have a religious gathering in Bethlehem*
- c) *Secrecy and concealment are not the same as duplicity and falsehood*

E. Promise in the Command

3 And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me *him* whom I name unto thee.

- 1. God told Samuel to go to Bethlehem to anoint a new king but God did

- not tell Samuel everything about his duty
2. God simply promised that He would show Samuel what he would have to do
 3. Duty often opens by degrees and obeying one step means that God would reveal the next step
 4. When it is time, God would show Samuel what he is to do
 5. The flesh does not like this step-by-step procedure but it does promote faith
 6. God is in the business of promoting our faith and not pampering our flesh

F. Performance of the Command – vs 4a

4 And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bethlehem...

1. It is always instructive to observe in Scripture how men respond to the commands of God
2. Samuel's response here was to perform God's commands to the letter
3. We need to faithfully obey God's commands
4. Samuel had been faithful to obey God and when God needed someone to anoint David He sent Samuel
5. God looks for faithfulness

G. Perturbation from the Command – vs 4b-5a

4b ...And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably? 5 And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD...

- Samuel's arrival at Bethlehem brought fear to the elders of the town
 1. Rejection in the Fear
 - a) *The fear of the leaders in seeing Samuel in their city showed that they did not want Samuel around*
 - b) *Samuel was just obeying God and he was not in Bethlehem to cause trouble*
 - c) *Live a life of obedience to the Lord and the world around you will reject you one way or another*
 - d) *What we really need to fear is disobedience to God*

2. Reason for the Fear

- a) *The elders wonder if Samuel was coming peacefully because they deserved the rod of correction*
- b) *Their fear betrayed their unfaithfulness*
- c) *The fear of the Bethlehemites is the fear that lawbreakers have of the police*

3. Removal of the Fear

- a) *The removal of the fear and the restoration of peace came through a sacrifice*
- b) *When Samuel announced that he had come to make a sacrifice it indicated that he was coming peaceably*
- c) *The sacrifice removed fear and brought peace just as the sacrifice of Christ removes fear and brings the greatest peace to the lost*

H. Purification in the Command – vs 5

5b ...sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

1. These people were going to engage in worship and Samuel told them to clean up for it
2. Purity was a prerequisite for worship and service at Bethlehem
3. We cannot worship without focusing on the sacrifice (Jesus Christ)
4. Like those of Bethlehem we need to sanctify ourselves before we worship

The Command for the Anointing...

III. CHOOSING FOR THE ANOINTING – VS 6-13

- When God ordered Samuel to go to Bethlehem He did not tell Samuel at that time that David was the choice for the next king
- It was only after Samuel had obeyed and gone to Bethlehem that God revealed the choice of David

A. Place of the Choosing

1b ...I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

1. Bethlehem was not a large or important city
2. But smallness is not a handicap to greatness
3. In Bethlehem Rachel gave birth to Benjamin and she died in the process
4. It was there that Boaz courted and married Ruth
5. Eventually Bethlehem was the place where the Savior was born

B. Principles for the Choosing

- The principles involved in the choosing of David for king are very instructive and they will teach us a lot
 - If we would apply these principles in our lives then we would avoid much heartache and many headaches
1. The Wrong Principle – vs 6

6 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed *is* before him. **8** Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. **9** Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. **10** Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these.

 - a) *When the time came for Samuel to choose one of Jesse's sons to be the next king, he stood before Eliab*
 - b) *Eliab was the oldest son of Jesse and he was impressive*
 - c) *Then Samuel said to himself, "Surely Eliab is the one who the Lord will choose to be the next king."*
 - d) *Samuel thought that Eliab would be a good choice for king because he looked so "kingly"*
 - e) *Samuel found out that looks was the wrong principle*
 - f) *It is strange that Samuel, who had been so wretchedly disappointed in Saul whose countenance and stature recommended him as king, should again judge a man by those same standards*
 - g) *Beware of being deceived by the outward appearance*
 - (1) Eve saw the forbidden fruit that it was "pleasant to the eyes" and she took the fruit

- (2) Outward appearance was also a problem with Achan in Josh 7:20-21
 - (3) David was snared by the outward appearance of Bathsheba – 2Sam 11:2
 - (4) Outward appearance has seduced many in all ages
 - h) *Eliab was impressive to the eye but he was not impressive where it counted*
2. The Right Principle – vs 7

7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

- a) *The principle that must guide our choices is a good heart*
- b) *The character of a person is more important than the looks of that person*
- c) *Morals are more important than what can be seen in a mirror*
- d) *Charisma, eloquence and good looks should not determine our vote but character should*
- e) *Many marriage partners have been chosen primarily on the basis of outward appearance*

c. Problems in the Choosing

1. Opportunity for Compromise
 - a) *Samuel had plenty of opportunities to compromise as he went from one son to another*
 - b) *He had to look at seven sons before he finally found David*
 - c) *Many folks would have chosen one of the 7 sons but Samuel asked “Do you have anymore sons?” – vs 11*
 - d) *Had Samuel compromised then he would not have discovered David*
 - e) *Compromising when making choices is so easy that Satan makes sure that we have plenty of compromise choices*
 - f) *Keep pursuing the right choice as Samuel did*
2. Opposition of Jesse – vs 11

11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all *thy* children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

- a) *Jesse's answer to Samuel might dampen the hope of Samuel in anointing the next king*
- b) *Jesse was obviously not enthused about David being chosen to be anointed*
- c) *He emphasized that David was the youngest and that he was busy (keeping sheep) and that he was lowly (keeping sheep was a lowly task)*
- d) *It was as though Jesse was saying, "Yes, David is left but you don't want to see him. He isn't qualified to be anointed king."*

3. The Obscurity of David

a) *It was a Pronounced Obscurity*

- (1) David was not even present for the religious ceremony that Samuel conducted in Bethlehem
- (2) The other 7 sons were present but David was left out in the fields with the sheep
- (3) Had Samuel not asked if there were other sons, he might have been left out there with the sheep
- (4) Obscurity is no hindrance to a divine anointing
- (5) God knows where you are and, if the heart is right, God can bring you front and center when the time is right

b) *It was a Preferred Obscurity*

- (1) Jesse seemed to prefer David's obscurity and the other 7 brothers were also in favor of his obscurity
- (2) The attitude of the brothers comes out later when David delivers food to the front lines to his brothers

1Sa 17:28 And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride,

and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

- (3) When God advances you to prominence don't be surprised if some ardently oppose it
- c) *It was a Providential Obscurity*
 - (1) Obscurity is not a curse
 - (2) Anyone who has had the problems of being in the limelight for awhile would agree
 - (3) Obscurity allows for meditation and the development of one's skills
 - (4) David's obscurity was providential in the sense that his shepherd life taught him many precious lessons.

D. Patience in the Choosing

11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all *thy* children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

1. Samuel was willing to wait for the right choice
2. "We will not sit down till he comes in from the field"
3. Here is a statement of patience
4. Impatience ruins those who will not wait for God's choice
5. Beware of taking the first thing that comes along rather than waiting patiently for God's choice

E. Pluckiness in the Choosing

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

1. It takes courage to make the right choices
2. It took courage for Samuel to anoint David in the presence of the seven sons who had been rejected by God
3. One can fancy the looks of his brothers as they bitterly watched the

anointing with hearts full of envy, contempt and rage.

4. Yes, we will have to confess our faith in hostile situations sometimes

F. Person for the Choosing

- Here we note why David was a great choice for Israel's next king
- When you choose according to God's principles you will not come up short

1. His Approval – vs 12b

12b ... And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

- a) The most important feature about David that made him the prime choice for king was that he was approved by God*
- b) For many years the Underwriter's Laboratories has been checking various products in our country. If they find the quality and safety of the item to be sufficient they put their seal of approval on it. We can then buy with confidence.*
- c) The best seal of approval is not the UL seal, but it is God's seal of approval and David had it*

2. His Attractiveness – vs 12

12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

- a) David was not chosen on the basis of his looks but he did have good looks*
- b) Beauty is not a sin*
- c) Character is more important than outward attractiveness*
- d) Turning down good looking Eliab does not mean that God's choice will be inferior, ugly, weak or repulsive.*
- e) This tells us that God's choices will not be disappointing*

3. His Activity – vs 11

11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep.

- a) *David was not a lazy boy who spent all this time watching TV and playing video games*
- b) *He was industrious, trustworthy, disciplined and faithful*
- c) *These are excellent qualities for Israel's next king*

4. His Age

- a) *He was the youngest of Jesse's sons*
- b) *Sometimes the number eight speaks of a new beginning*
 - (1) *The week has seven days and the eighth day is the beginning of a new week*
 - (2) *David being the 8th son spoke of a new beginning*
 - (3) *King Saul had made a mess of things but David brought improvement to the condition of Israel*

5. His Ability

13 *Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.*

- a) *This endowment from God certainly made David a good choice for the next king*
- b) *This will be seen in the slaying of Goliath, in David's battles with the Philistines and in his wise administration of the nation*