

The Life of David

• Lesson One •

From Shepherd Boy to God's Chosen King

God Chooses Unlikely Candidates to Accomplish His Will

1. God does the choosing
2. God's chosen leaders need not be the "giants" of the world
3. God equips us with what we need to accomplish his work

Worship

Read Acts 9:1-16

Often God uses ordinary events and insignificant people to accomplish his plans. Think of this fact as you read the following hymn responsively.

L: God moves in a mysterious way

C: **His wonders to perform;**

L: He plants his footsteps in the sea

C: **And rides upon the storm.**

L: Blind unbelief is sure to err

C: **And scan his work in vain;**

L: God is his own interpreter,

C: **And he will make it plain.** (CW 420:1,3)

Prayer: O Lord, a surgeon would never use a rusty scalpel. But you have chosen to use us as your instruments in spite of our sinfulness and shortcomings. Thank you for this privilege. Thank you for giving us what we need to do your work. May our faith in Jesus our Savior guide us to live holy lives. In his name we pray. Amen.

Introduction

What life transitions have you experienced: a job transfer, a move, the addition of a child? We are forced to shift gears; easy for some, for others not so easy. But good comes through all the changes we experience. God "steers" us, that is, he allows things to happen to force a change. That's what God did with David. He brought great changes into David's life for the good of his kingdom.

Studying God's Word

Samuel was the last of Israel's judges. At the end of Samuel's life, the nation of Israel asked him to give them a king. A king would change everything and make everything better! Never mind the King of heaven and earth, who took Israel's sins away and opened for them the doors of the eternal Promised Land! In answer to their request, God said to faithful, aging Samuel, "*Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king*" (1 Samuel 8:7).

Into this mess came their first king—Saul. Although he did some good, his overall political and spiritual accomplishments didn't leave David with much to build on. Why not? Simply because Saul didn't follow God and his Word. As king, he didn't get to the heart of the nation's problem. In short, he didn't apply God's law and gospel. Forty years of confusion and turmoil followed for Israel.

Then came David. Except for Jesus and Moses, there is more written about David than any other person in the Bible (66 chapters). Almost five times as much material is found on David than on Abraham. *David* means "beloved" or "loved by God." Twice the Bible refers to him as "a man after God's own heart."

God does the choosing

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

1. When did God set David apart as king?
2. What was David doing when God chose him?
3. God also uses each of us, whether we are shepherds or employed in some other occupation. According to John 15:16, why did God decide to use *you* in his kingdom? Be specific!

His Word in My Life

Choosing one's career is one of life's biggest and toughest hurdles. College students often change their major before finding their niche. What can you do to encourage young people (or unhappy adults, for that matter) to find the "right choice" for their future career?

Not only does God bestow individual talents on each of us, he also sees to it that we are placed where he chooses.

God’s chosen leaders need not be the “giants” of the world

1. Whom did Samuel think was the next king? (See 1 Samuel 16:6.)
2. Why did Samuel come to this conclusion? (See 1 Samuel 16:7.)
3. Can you think of another example in Bible history when personal appearance was deceiving?

His Word in My Life

Looks can be deceiving. An undercover cop can look like a drug addict or a prostitute. An innocent-looking book can be full of pornography. Why is it so dangerous to judge a person’s heart by what he looks like on the outside?

Man usually sizes up the worth or value of another person by outward appearance. “Big equals good.” This is often a distortion of the truth. God looks at the heart.

God equips us with what we need to accomplish his work

1. 1 Samuel 13:14 points out the difference between Saul and David. What was it?
2. Where did David get his gifts and talents?

His Word in My Life

Think back to your high school yearbook, especially the section called “most likely to succeed.” How have some of your classmates used their talents to “succeed” in life? Would you have chosen the shepherd boy David as the “most likely to succeed”? How do you define success?

Of all the talents we need to get the job done, service to God requires a faithful heart. God himself gives us that.

Summary

“Bloom where you’re planted.” It’s not a Bible passage, but it drives home a point.

1. What makes you chafe and get restless with your station in life?

2. What has this lesson taught you about being content and happy with your present status in life? about faithfully serving God and each other?

Life with God

- Have you visited that new family in the neighborhood? or the new members at church? Why wait any longer? Today’s the day!
- Going to live in a nursing home can be a traumatic transition for some. If you know someone who is making such a transition, you can make it easier on him or her by a personal visit and through encouragement from the Scriptures. PS: Take a child along.