

# David, Samuel, and Saul

*Introducing Heart of David Series*

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# What We Will Learn

- 1<sup>st</sup> king of Israel, Saul, lost favor with God
- God rejected him as king over Israel
- God selected David to be king because he has the “right heart”
- Start of a bible study series to ask “What did God see in the heart of David?”
- 1 Samuel 15 and 16

# Saul Modifies Mission

- God instructed Saul to destroy Amalekites
  - God wants to punish Amalekites
  - Kill everybody and farm animal
- Saul attacked and destroyed Amalekites
  - Took Agag the king alive
  - Took best livestock alive
  - Destroyed despised and weak livestock
- 1 Samuel 15:1–9





## 1 Samuel 15 (NIV)

- 1 Samuel said to Saul, "I am the one the LORD sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the LORD.
- 2 This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt.
- 3 Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.' "
- 4 So Saul summoned the men and mustered them at Telaim—two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men from Judah.
- 5 Saul went to the city of Amalek and set an ambush in the ravine.



## 1 Samuel 15 (NIV)

6 Then he said to the Kenites, "Go away, leave the Amalekites so that I do not destroy you along with them; for you showed kindness to all the Israelites when they came up out of Egypt." So the Kenites moved away from the Amalekites.

7 Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, to the east of Egypt.

8 He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword.

9 But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.



# Saul's Attempt to Justify His Actions to Samuel

- The soldiers brought the animals and selected the best to sacrifice to the Lord
- We totally destroyed the rest
- I went on the mission God assigned me
- I was afraid of the people
- I gave in to them
- 1 Samuel 15:10–11, 13–21, and 24–25



## 1 Samuel 15 (NIV)

10 Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel:

11 "I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions." Samuel was troubled, and he cried out to the LORD all that night.





## 1 Samuel 15 (NIV)

13 When Samuel reached him, Saul said, "The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD's instructions."

14 But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?"

15 Saul answered, "The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest."

16 "Stop!" Samuel said to Saul. "Let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night." "Tell me," Saul replied.

17 Samuel said, "Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel."





## 1 Samuel 15 (NIV)

18 And he sent you on a mission, saying, 'Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; make war on them until you have wiped them out.'

19 Why did you not obey the LORD? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the LORD?"

20 "But I did obey the LORD," Saul said. "I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king.

21 The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal."



## 1 Samuel 15 (NIV)

24 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned. I violated the LORD's command and your instructions. I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them.

25 Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD."



# Saul Turned Away from God

- He became arrogant
- Sought honor for himself
- Focused on impressing people instead of worshipping God from his heart
  - Told Samuel he performed God's instruction
  - Asked Samuel to honor him
  - Said he acted to impress his people
- "Took the liberty" to modify God's mission



# Samuel Rebukes Saul

- Does the Lord delight in offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying His word?
- To obey is better than sacrifice
- Rebellion is like sin of divination
- Arrogance is like evil of idolatry
- You have rejected the word of the Lord
- He has rejected you as king over Israel
- 1 Samuel 15: 22–23



## 1 Samuel 15 (NIV)

22 But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."



# God Sends Samuel to Anoint a New King for Israel

- God tells Samuel to go to Jesse and anoint one of his sons to be king
- God tells Samuel to hide the anointing under cover of sacrifice
- Samuel invited Jesse to the sacrifice
- 1 Samuel 16: 1–5





## 1 Samuel 16 (NIV)

1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

2 But Samuel said, "How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me." The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'

3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."



## 1 Samuel 16 (NIV)

4 Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?"

5 Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.



# God Selects David to be King over Israel

- Motivating passage for “Heart of David” bible study series
- Man looks at the outward appearance but God looks at the heart
- What did God see in the “heart of David?”
- 1 Samuel 16: 6–13





## 1 Samuel 16 (NIV)

6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD."

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either."

9 Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the LORD chosen this one."



## 1 Samuel 16 (NIV)

10 Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these."

11 So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

12 So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one."

13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.



# David Joins Saul's Service

- Saul was tormented by evil spirit
- Saul's attendant recommended David be brought in as harp player
  - Brave man and warrior
  - Speaks well and is a fine-looking man
  - The Lord is with him
- David joined Saul's service as harp player
- Saul made him armor bearer later
- 1 Samuel 16: 14–23





## 1 Samuel 16 (NIV)

14 Now the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him.

15 Saul's attendants said to him, "See, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you.

16 Let our lord command his servants here to search for someone who can play the harp. He will play when the evil spirit from God comes upon you, and you will feel better."

17 So Saul said to his attendants, "Find someone who plays well and bring him to me."

18 One of the servants answered, "I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the harp. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the LORD is with him."



## 1 Samuel 16 (NIV)

19 Then Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep."

20 So Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them with his son David to Saul.

21 David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much, and David became one of his armor-bearers.

22 Then Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, "Allow David to remain in my service, for I am pleased with him."

23 Whenever the spirit from God came upon Saul, David would take his harp and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.



# Concluding Remarks

- Saul turned away from God
- God rejected him as king over Israel
- God saw in David the right heart
- He selected David to be king of Israel
- “Heart of David” bible study series
  - Study the life of David
  - His interactions with people and with God
  - What did God see in the “heart of David?”