

THE Rock COMMUNITY CHURCH

1 Samuel 16:1-13

“A King for Myself”

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Anaheim Hills, CA | RockCC.com

20:06

Well, good morning, everyone. Welcome to church. It is good to worship the Lord with you. I love that last song, All Glory Be to Christ. We shall sing forever, all glory be to Christ. It is all about Him.

20:23

Would you please open your Bibles to 1 Samuel, Chapter 16? 1 Samuel is chapter 16 and we're going to read from verses 1 through 13. Hear the word of the Lord. The Lord said to Samuel, how long will you grieve over Saul since I have rejected him from being king over Israel?

20:55

Fill your horn with oil and go. I will send you to Jesse, the Bethlehemite, Bethlehemite, sorry, I don't know why that was hard for me to pronounce. For I have provided for myself a king among his sons.

21:10

And Samuel said, how can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me. And the Lord said, take a heifer with you and say I have come to sacrifice the Lord and invite Jesse to the sacrifice and I will show you what you shall do.

21:27

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 the Lord, consecrate yourself and come with me to the sacrifice.

21:52

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 me. But the Lord said to Samuel, do not look on his appearance or on his height of his stature because I have rejected him.

22:12

For the Lord sees not as man sees. Man looks in the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart. Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, neither has the Lord chosen this one.

22:27

Then Jesse made Shammah pass by and said, neither has the Lord chosen this one. And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, the Lord has not chosen these. Then Samuel said to Jesse, are all your sons here?

22:45

And he said, there remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep. And Samuel said to Jesse, send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here. And he sent and brought him in.

23:02

Now he was ready and had a beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, arise, anoint him, for this is he. Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward.

23:22

And Samuel rose and went to Ramah. This is God's word. Will you pray with me? Lord, as we open this passage together this morning, I ask that you would come down and speak. Unless you show up, we're spinning our wheels here.

23:44

I pray that you would magnify your name through the teaching of your word. That you would be honored. I have my notes here, but let your spirit do what your spirit wants to do. I pray that we would see Christ clearly this morning.

24:05

And God, as we see the anointing of King David, we know this is a monumental stepping stone in redemptive history that gets us to Christ. The true King, the King of Kings, the one who sits upon the throne, the one to whom you promised a forever kingdom.

24:26

As David later writes, the Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand till I make your enemies your foot still. We look to you as our King. Help us to understand what that means and to represent our King rightly.

24:46

It's in Jesus' name we pray, amen. This morning we come to the account of Samuel anointing David at God's direction. Now the focal point of this chapter places the whole of David's story under the umbrella of God's divine oversight.

25:11

I want to point that the focal point, as you notice, we got introduced to the main character this morning, right? This this, all of 1 Samuel has been working towards getting to David. So then we could get to 2 Samuel chapter 7, right?

25:28

Which is the Davidic covenant, the promise that a king will sit upon the throne of David forever and ever, right? We're on this upward march to Christ and ironically, it's it's funny, if you were paying attention, David's name isn't even mentioned until verse 13, right?

25:47

That's where that's where we meet David, the main guy. One of the three primary characters of the Old Testament. You have Abraham, you have Moses, you have David, right? And the heartbeat of this chapter or this section is on God's divine choice.

26:08

That's the theme. God chooses a king, a king for himself. In comparison to what did the people do? They demanded a king. They sought a king that was tall, handsome, right? That was everything externally they wanted.

26:27

He was he was a taller than anybody else. Surely this is the guy and God says no. I want that guy, the guy out there tending sheep. That's the man after my own heart. And so this whole event here is showing that God is going to step in.

26:54

The people had their way. God granted them their way. Now God's gonna step in. He removed Saul as king. Now he's gonna step in and he's gonna put his king in place. Psalm 78 verse 7 he says, he chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfold.

27:14

Who's the he? God. God chose. Solomon says of his dad as he's recounting the story from God's perspective. But I, God speaking, chose David to be over my people Israel. Now if you remember back to chapter 13 verse 14, Saul's rejected as as king.

27:39

And remember what Samuel's rebuke and and his declaration of King Saul was? He says but your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart. The Lord has sought a man after his own heart.

27:59

And the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people because, here's the why, because you Saul have not kept the commandments of the Lord. Right so we've already been introduced to that idea. God sought a man.

28:17

I love in chapter 13, David's not even on the scene. What has God already done? He's commanded him to be king. That's that's how God rolls. Paul picks up the theme in Acts chapter 13. He's speaking in a Jewish synagogue in Antioch of Pisidia and he's recounting Israel's story.

28:39

In chapter 13 of Acts starting verse 20 it says, then they asked for a king and God gave them Saul, the son of Kish. It's credited to John Calvin. They summarize a quote. It's not an exact quote because it's a summary of some of his teachings.

28:56

But Calvin is accredited for saying that when God wants to judge a nation he gives him wicked rulers. Right and notice God gave them Saul, son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin for 40 years. And we've, we're going to come to the end of that reign here shortly.

29:16

But look at verse 22. And when he, who's the he there, God, when he, God removed him. I love that. Who puts kings in their places? God. Okay you want a king? Here you go. Here's Saul. And when I'm done with him, I removed him.

29:35

And then look what he does. And he raised up David to be king. Of whom he testified and said, I have found in David, the son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will do all my will. I love the, you notice the comparison?

29:56

What does it say of Saul? Just kind of give Saul like factual information, right? Saul, well he's a son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin and he was king for 40 years. But then it says David. He raised up David.

30:11

He raised him up. He took him from the sheepfold, right? God took him from tending sheep and put him on the throne. He raised up David to be their king, of whom he testifies and says, so this is God's testimony of David, I have found in David, the son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will do all my will.

30:34

What does it mean to be a man after God's own heart? Because this wasn't just an arbitrary event taking place here. What would it take for that to be a description of you, for that to be a description of me?

30:49

What does that mean? What does that look like? This week I jotted down just about a dozen thoughts on this and just because this is the introduction to the message, I just want to give you four in passing.

31:03

You can add more to these, but you can't take away any of these. The text we just read gives hint to the first point, that a man after God's own heart is somebody who finds their delight in the word of God, right?

31:20

David was a man who would do all my will. He's unlike Saul, remember, because we're going to read here just a minute, he's the better than Saul, right? God sought out a man better than you, as he said in the previous section.

31:36

David was a man who delighted in God's word. Psalm 19 verse 7 says, the law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.

31:55

The commandments of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever. The rules of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold.

32:12

Even much fine gold, sweeter also than honey and dippings of the honeycomb. How many of us think that way? The word of God is more precious than our paychecks. Isn't that kind of what it says, more precious, more to be desired than gold?

32:37

A man after God's own heart is one who delights in God's word. David goes on to write, or Psalm 1, if we could go backwards a little bit. He says, blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scoffers, but his delight is in the law of the Lord.

33:00

And on the law, he meditates day and night. David, this man after God's own heart, first and foremost, focused on one primary thing, delighting in God's word. That was his heartbeat.

33:20

John MacArthur, Dr. John MacArthur says this, the fact is that too many professing Christians live their lives day in and day out on the basis of something other than the Bible. That's in the image of Saul. That's what the text is going to compare.

33:41

David is the better Saul, who is a representative of the better David, who is? Somebody, who's the better David? Jesus, Sunday school, Sunday school, question right there. Everybody gets an A. Are we of the image of Saul or are we of the image of David?

34:02

Are we a man after God's own heart who delights in the word of God? Point two, verse 11 of Psalm 19 gives us the second point. David, through his delight in God's word, what did he seek to do? He sought to cleanse his heart and life from sin.

34:22

He was a confessing man. Now, as you read the story of David, you're gonna see that a lot of David's sins are way worse than Saul. That's an interesting observation, isn't it? what sought, what set David and Saul?

34:42

What made David the better Saul? Well, he was a man who sought to cleanse his heart and life from sin. He was a confessing man. Psalm 19, verse 11. Moreover, remember he's delighting in this passage, he's delighting in the precepts of God.

35:06

In the Word of God, this is what he says, moreover, by them, the Word of God, the precepts, is your servant warned. In keeping there is great reward. Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from my hidden faults.

35:22

Keep back your servant from all presumptuous sins. And as I read that, the presumptuous sins, this isn't in my notes, but just you go back to chapter 15. Verse 23, for rebellion is as the sin of divination and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry.

35:46

That was God's rebuke to Saul. I can't help but think David, as he's pinning Psalm 19, remembers back and says, keep back your servant from all presumptuous sins. I don't want to be like that. I don't want to presume upon your goodness and your kindness and your grace.

36:08

Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgressions. Now, if you remember back, 1 Samuel chapter 15, verse 28, that's the verse where where God rejects Saul and says he's going to raise up somebody who is better than you.

36:30

So David is the better Saul. Saul sought to give excuses. Right? You remember back, I've done everything that the Lord's commanded. And David or Samuel goes, well, what is the what is the sound I'm hearing?

36:51

I'm hearing the sheep and the oxen. King Agag is still alive. You failed to do everything that God had commanded. And what does Saul do? He gives it to you. Well, the people. Right? Like he gives excuses.

37:07

We're going to read later on when David sins greatly. He steals another man's wife, has an affair with her, gets her pregnant, then murders the husband. And Nathan, the prophet, comes to King David. Right?

37:23

This is a gangster move on Nathan. And he shares that story of the rich man and the poor man and the party and all that. And the rich man stole the sheep from the poor man. And David's like, let me at him.

37:37

I'll kill him. And Nathan goes, David, you're the man. You're the man. And what does David do? Well, he writes in Psalm 51. For I know my transgression and my sin is ever before me. Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

38:01

A man after God's own heart has a man who delights in God's word and a man who is who is seeking to cleanse his heart and his life from sin. He's confessing. He's not arguing against. He's saying, yeah, Nathan, you're right.

38:19

I am that man. And I always think it's funny in Psalm 51 and not too funny because against you and you only have I sinned. I'm sure Bathsheba and her husband, like they would have had something. Wait, wait, wait.

38:38

Right. You murdered my...like you sinned against others. But compared to God, David recognized there's only one thing that counts. That's who David was. Point three, a man after God's own heart is a man who wholeheartedly trusts in the providence of God.

38:59

Man who wholeheartedly trusts in the providence of God. Psalm 86 verse 1, he says, David writes, incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me for I am poor and needy. Preserve my life for I am godly. Save your servant who trusts in you.

39:21

You are my God. Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all the day, gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, do I lift my soul. David throws himself completely into who God is, right?

39:42

We're going to read as, he's king. He gets anointed king, he's king, but yet Saul's still on the throne. And David has opportunity after opportunity to overthrow Saul, but what does David do? He trusts in God, and he waits for God to do what God's going to do.

40:04

That's a man after God's own heart. Fourth, and the last point, man after God's own heart is one who confesses that the Lord reigns and consecrates himself, sets himself aside to the Lord. Now, this is going to be important a little bit later in our story.

40:23

But David writes in Psalm 24, verse 3, who shall ascend the hill of the Lord and who shall stand in his holy place, he who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully, he will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

40:52

Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. He set himself aside for God's purpose. He cleansed his hands. He sought to purify his heart. He prepared himself to ascend the hill of the Lord.

41:16

So what does it mean to be a person after God's own heart? What does it take for that description to be applied to you? Well, do you delight in God's word? Or is your Bible collecting dust? Are you actively confessing your sins, repenting over them?

41:36

Do you trust wholeheartedly in the providence of God over every aspect of your life? Are you a person who is consecrating themselves to the Lord every day? You see, the scary part is that Saul would have probably answered yes to all of those questions.

41:58

Sin had blinded his eyes so much that he would have said, no, I'm that man too. The hard truth is that he was blind to the reality of his sin, to the reality of his character. And the word of God and the prophet of God demonstrated that indeed Saul wasn't a man after God's own heart.

42:22

And the author of 1 Samuel is now going to draw a comparison throughout David's life that he is the better Saul, which is to cause us to long for and to anticipate and to desire the better David, right?

42:39

Because even though David's the hero of the story, spoiler alert, he's not the hero of the story. Because we're going to look at David's life and there's conflict there, because, wait, he did what? And he's still a man after God's own heart, it's like, oh, okay, he's the king we need, he's God's king, but there's still that you're found wanting, that desire that you're longing for the real king, the king of kings.

43:11

That's what this story is getting us to. And so we come to our first point, as far as our text goes, and that's letting go of the past. Verse 1 of 1 Samuel 16 says, the Lord said to Samuel, how long will you grieve over Saul?

43:29

Since I have rejected him from being king over Israel, fill your horn with oil and go, I will send you to Jesse, the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons. And Samuel said, how can I go?

43:48

If Saul hears it, he will kill me. And the Lord said, take a heifer with you and say, I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. You see, God had another task for elderly Samuel. He wasn't done with him. He was to anoint God's king.

44:10

Now, why was Samuel mourning over the failures of his past labors? Because you think, after all, everything Samuel has devoted himself to has collapsed, had such high hopes in Saul and his kingdom. And Samuel, now at the end of his life, is weeping and mourning.

44:32

Was it merely a lack of fulfillment in ministry? Possibly, there's probably some of that there. don't know for sure, but I think Samuel's sorrow was over Saul's rebellion and God's rejection of him. Samuel may well have been mourning because he feared that Israel would also disintegrate and follow their king.

44:58

Now, if you remember back in chapter 12, back in chapter 12, I don't have this on the slide, but verse 14, Samuel says this in his farewell address, If you will fear the Lord and serve Him and obey His voice and not rebel against the commandments of the Lord, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well. Go down to verse 24, Only fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart.

45:32

For consider what great things He has done for you, but if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king. I think there's deep, deep fear there in Samuel. There's sin in the nation, right?

45:55

What will be the outcome? So there's something proper in Samuel's grief. He wasn't upset over a lousy baseball game, right? Rather, he was distressed over the spiritual welfare of God's people, over their condition and their security.

46:15

Here Samuel paints a picture of a man after God's own heart, right? Samuel's weeping over the sin of his king, over the sin in his nation. The fact that these people keep refusing to obey the Word of God, I wonder, do we ever mourn like that?

46:39

Do we mourn over, do we mourn or do we gossip over the sins of others? Do we ever show sorrow over the unbelief in the church? Do we ever grieve over the biblical and ethical ignorance of professing believers?

46:56

Those that we call friends, family, loved ones, when we see sin in each other, which I guarantee you all of us, all of us, none of us here are without sin, let us not be so arrogant to think that we are innocent.

47:14

But do we weep over the sins that we have? Do we weep over the sins of our nation? Do we weep that it's allowed just right down the street, the slaughter of babies in the mother's womb? Do we weep when the nation refuses to adhere and obey the Word of God?

47:37

When we have people that say God didn't really make them male and female? Do we weep according to God's heart? Because that's what it means to be a man after God's heart. Samuel is distressed, it's commendable and instructive, and God's instructions are encouraging.

48:04

God is able. Hear this, God is able to provide a new beginning. The true king never loses control of his kingdom, right? Who's in charge? They're all freaking out. Saul, he's going down this way, and then they're going to be excited for David, but who's in charge?

48:28

God. He's the one. As it writes, Meredith Kline in his commentary on the book of Genesis on the creation account, he describes this ascent of authority, and he talks about God resting on the Sabbath day as not God taking a nap, but God sitting enthroned over his creation.

48:48

He's not off the throne. Never was, never will be for one millisecond. God is in control. And Samuel, I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided myself, for myself a king amongst his people, amongst his sons.

49:10

The key word in this chapter provided sets the theme. The verb is to see, right? I have seen among his sons a king for myself. The verb to see, or the word, the root of it, appears nine times in this chapter.

49:33

And it carries the sense when it's used in this as provide. That's how our, at least the ESV renders it. Now you'll remember, we interacted with this word before. If you've ever read Genesis chapter 22, Abraham is heading up onto a hill with his son, Isaac.

49:48

And Isaac's look around, go, dad, well, I see all this stuff for the offering, but where's the offering? And he says, God will provide himself a lamb for the offering. Same word, God will see himself a lamb.

50:05

So Abraham, Genesis 22, verse 14, called the name of the place the Lord will provide, or the Hebrew, the Lord will see. And it is said to this day on the mountain of the Lord, it shall be provided, it shall be seen to.

50:26

What shall be provided? The true lamb. The story of Abraham and Isaac is not about Abraham or Isaac. It's about Christ and what God's gonna do, and God's gonna provide himself a lamb. God's going to provide himself a king.

50:42

The word occurs nine times in this chapter, and it's not easy to see in the English, in the English translations. It appears as a verb to provide here in verse 1 and verse 17, or to see and look at verse 6 and 7, three times in verse 7 and verse 18.

50:59

It appears in noun form as appearance in verse 7 or 12, and the idea of how God sees compared to how man sees. God sees to it, and that's the play on words that's taking place here in this chapter.

51:16

God doesn't see as man sees. Man looks on the external. God looks on the heart, and that's what's going on. There's this comparison. And in contrast to the one that God sees compares to the one that God rejected.

51:34

Very, the Hebrew words, ba -ah -rah, probably mispronouncing that, and rah -ah -rah, probably mispronouncing that. Hebrew, I barely passed Hebrew. Awful language to learn. But that's the play on word of what's going on.

51:51

I have seen this one. I have rejected this one. I have not seen this one. John Piper writes in his book on Providence, God does not simply see as a passive bystander. He doesn't see as a passive bystander.

52:16

As God, he is never merely an observer. He is not a passive observer of the world, and not a passive predictor of the future. Wherever God is looking, he is acting. In other words, there is a profound theological reason why God's providence does not merely mean his seeing, but rather his seeing too.

52:47

When God sees something, he sees to it. Evidently, as Moses wrote Genesis 22, that's Abraham and Isaac, God's purposeful engagement with Abraham was so obvious that Moses could simply refer to God's perfect seeing as implying God's purposeful doing.

53:11

His seeing was his seeing too. His perception implied his provision, his providence. God doesn't passively observe, he sees to it. I have seen too a king for myself. And Samuel said, how can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.

53:35

And the Lord said, take a heifer with you and say I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. And a lot of commentators will say this is like a cover story. I don't know if I, that's okay, I don't know if I agree with that.

53:49

I don't think God is asking Samuel to do anything shady here. I think God hears Samuel and says, in a way, I don't answer to Saul. I don't answer to Saul. Here is what I'd like you to do, Samuel. Thus this whole event, right, we get kind of distracted by like God providing a cover story.

54:13

Why I struggle with that is because this whole event God is portraying as a worshipful event, a God-focused worship of His sovereignty over selecting a king for himself, and there's to be a sacrifice, there's to be praise.

54:31

This isn't to be a simple thing, this is a monumental thing that is taking place. It's a Godward-focused event, which is our second point. That's a worship-focused event. Verse 3, and invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for him whom I declare to you.

54:58

You shall anoint for me whom I declare to you. That's the drumbeat. Who's in charge? Samuel's presence no doubt led credibility, but who is the one selecting a king? Not the people, not Samuel. We're gonna see Samuel doesn't get it right, but God.

55:25

Samuel did what the Lord commanded. You should underline that in your Bible. Saul didn't, Samuel did, David will, right? That's the comparison, and he came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, do you come peaceably?

55:45

He said, peaceably, I've 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. Samuel's fears were plausible.

56:01

After all, anointing a king while Saul is still on the throne is an act of treason, right? Like, that's a scary reality. It's not a small thing what God's asking Samuel to do. It doesn't make any administrative sense.

56:15

It doesn't make any practical sense, but once again, that's why I go, I go, I think God's saying I don't answer to Saul. I've rejected Saul. Saul has been removed from the scene. Samuel, you're my guy.

56:31

You obey me. Let me take care of the details. Again, a man after God's own heart is one who throws himself fully in trusting the providence of God. It might end up as Samuel's death. And often there's a case of many prophets.

56:50

That doesn't mean anything less. God is still in control. The elders of the city, they come out trembling too. Everybody's afraid. And they may reflect a general reverence for Samuel and also show some good deal of apprehension in their question.

57:08

Are you coming in peace? Right? They may thought of that they came under the prophets displeasure. I remind you that in the last chapter, what did he do at the end? He hacked a king to pieces. Right?

57:21

You don't mess with Samuel. Right? He, I mean, he's straight as an arrow, right? Like, no, this is what God says. They may thought they had incurred the prophets displeasure. But perhaps they fear about the political implications.

57:38

If it reaches King Saul or spies penetrating our city, are they gonna tell Saul that Samuel the prophet came here? What did he do? In any case, Samuel reassures them and commands them to prepare themselves for worship.

57:55

Now this week, there's so many things I could focus on in this passage. This week, this phrase, he commanded them to consecrate themselves for the sacrifice. That, that text has been just, I haven't been able to shake it all week.

58:14

Here's the question. Is the God of Scripture ever to be approached flippantly? Is the God of Scripture ever to be approached flippantly? Let me ask you this question. How did you prepare yourself to approach God on this Lord's Day?

58:31

Those are the questions that have been coming. What did you do to consecrate yourself? H .B. Charles, one of my favorite preachers, he wrote a book on worship and in a chapter titled Sunday morning begins Saturday night.

58:47

He wrote this and it's lengthy but I put it up there. We've all done it. We have participated in worship service without worshiping God in spirit and truth. We have gone through the motions. We have sat in service with our minds and our hearts in some faraway place.

59:04

Why does this happen? You love God. You are devoted follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. You believe in the Holy Spirit. You are a participating member of your local church and you look forward to church all week.

59:15

The worship was uplifting. The music was inspiring. The sermon was edifying but somehow you missed it all. As the congregation offered worship, you were fault-finding. As musicians praise went forth, you thoughtlessly mouthed the words.

59:33

As the pastor preached the word, you were daydreaming. You know what it is to share Jacob's sad post Bethel lament. Surely the Lord was in this place and I didn't know it. What happened? Well one of the reasons we miss some of the worship service we attend is that we start preparing for worship too late.

59:55

Did you prepare for worship? You expect the teaching pastor, the music leaders, and the ministry volunteers to prepare to lead. Did you prepare to participate? On Sunday mornings, did you get up, get dressed, and go to church without preparation?

01:00:11

Or did you take great care to prepare yourself physically, making sure your attire and appearance are presentable while your heart and mind are not? Do you prepare your inner person to gather with the redeemed saints before the throne of grace?

01:00:29

Solomon warned, guard your steps when you go to the house of God, Ecclesiastes 5:1. Do those words reflect how you approach your meeting place for corporate worship? Do you go to church carefully, thoughtfully, prayerfully?

01:00:46

If not, I challenge you to take your spiritual preparation for corporate worship more seriously. Take the time and trouble to get yourself to worship the Lord and the fellow and the fellowship with his saints.

01:01:02

What a great, great exhortation. Right? God is never to be approached flippantly. Jesse, your sons, the village guys, the elders, go prepare yourself for the sacrifice. Don't approach God as if He is a common thing, and the things of God as if they are to be taken without regard.

01:01:27

We come to our third and final point, God's sovereign choice. When they came, He looked at Eliab and thought, surely the Lord's anointed is before him. But the Lord said to Samuel, do not look on his appearance or in the height of his stature, because I have rejected him.

01:01:49

I haven't seen him. For the Lord sees, not as man sees. Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart. Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel, and he said, neither has the Lord chosen this one.

01:02:03

Then Jesse made Shammah pass by, and he said, neither has the Lord chosen this one. And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, the Lord has not chosen these. Then Samuel said to Jesse, are all your sons here?

01:02:19

And he said, there remains yet the youngest. And behold, he is keeping sheep. And Samuel said to Jesse, send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here. And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had a beautiful eyes, and was handsome.

01:02:39

And the Lord set a rise and anoint him, for this is the one, this is the king. Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers, and the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward, and Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

01:02:56

Though Samuel's presence lent prestige to this event, the choice itself could not be clearer in the text. It was God's choice. This was God's man for the job. He was ready, Samuel was ready to anoint Eliab, until he was rebuked and corrected by God, and reminded that fitness to serve God is not indicated by stature or attractiveness.

01:03:26

David was the youngest, perhaps the smallest, that idea there carries that weight. He was the runt of the litter is kind of that idea. And he carried on the task of tending sheep. His kingship depended solely on God's sovereign choice.

01:03:43

It didn't make earthly sense. What a crucial moment this is in 1 Samuel. So much hinges on this point, right? If Samuel had his way, if God didn't step in and intervene, we would have had Eliab, which we're going to find out next chapter, he would have just been Saul act two, right?

01:04:06

He wasn't a man after God's own heart. The text warns God's people that only God's wisdom alone is sufficient for directing his kingdom. There's at least one thing we can do, seek to do, is beware of impressiveness and of the external, right?

01:04:25

Just because someone looks good, is talented, can throw a football, play an instrument, doesn't mean they are qualified for ministry. God looks upon the heart, right? Serving in the youth ministry for over 17 years, I often, you know, kids come, aren't you excited that so-and-so pop singer or music star or something, did you hear they're a Christian?

01:04:47

Isn't that great? Well, of course, anybody being a Christian, but why is that any different? And it usually comes down to, imagine how influential they can be. And I go, timeout, God does not need their influence.

01:05:06

God doesn't need their Twitter feed. God doesn't need their following. Well, what would you do if they came to our church? Here's what I'd do, I'd say, sit right there, zip it and open your Bible and learn.

01:05:19

Don't say a word. Be discipled, get raised up, become a man after God's own heart. It's not the external that God looks at, it's the internal. When God looks and examines us, what does he see? What does he see?

01:05:41

We're going to pick up next week, I'm talking about the spirit rushing upon David and next week's passage is awesome, I'm looking forward to it. But I want to end with that, when God looks, does he see men and women after his own heart?

01:05:59

Men and women who are sold out to the word of God, who are sold out to obedience to the word of God. Men and women who are actively, constantly confessing their sins, not making excuses for them. But men and women who are humble before their king, who bow low, faces to the ground, like the tax collector beating their chest, woe is me, for I'm a sinner.

01:06:31

We're not like the Pharisees saying, thank you, I'm not like that guy. But we're like that guy. Those are the ones who God looks at, and he smiles. They're forgiven people. That's the church I want to be a part of.

01:06:47

Not arrogant people, not people who pass off excuses, but people whose hearts are wholly dedicated to the things of God, to the glory of God, to the honor of God in all that we say and all that we do.

01:07:03

Let's pray. Lord, I pray that you would make us those people. What a scary thing it is to pray. Lord, try us, search us, look in the deepest recesses of all of our hearts, where those locked rooms are, where we've ignored, where we've buried, where we've just flat out rebelled, examine all those details of our hearts, the things nobody else knows, but you see clearly.

01:07:44

Search our hearts and know us, try us, see if there's any evil way within us, and then lead us down the way of everlasting. Let us be a repenting people, where arrogance is found among us, please remove it.

01:07:59

Let us be a humble and broken people, knowing that if it wasn't for the grace of God intervening, we have no hope. You have set a king upon the throne. You have set a great high priest. You have done everything for our salvation.

01:08:27

And we are people. I want to be people that wholly rely upon your providence, your sovereignty to see us through from beginning to end. We just saying there's future grace. We have past grace. We live in present grace.

01:08:40

We look forward to future grace that'll take us all the way to heaven. We put, like Paul says, we put no confidence in our flesh because the second we step out in our flesh, we're anointing the Iliads.

01:08:55

Forgive us when we do that, when we're people that presume. Slow us down. Get our eyes focused on you, and it's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.