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David: The Anointed

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Series: David
1 Samuel 16:1-13

**BIG IDEA - GOD USES PEOPLE THAT NO ONE WOULD EXPECT TO
MOVE HIS MISSION FORWARD**

Good morning! How is everybody doing? Happy Father's Day! I hope you know it's Father's Day at this point. We love dads. This might be a crazy thing to say in our society today, but we love dads. We think Dad is important. We think men are important. Being a dad, by the way, is very close to God's heart.

If you didn't know this (maybe this is a new thought for some of you), God has always been a dad. Before he was a lawgiver, before he was a maker, before he was a judge, before he was a creator, he was a dad. Why? Because he has always had a son. He has always been in relationship with Jesus. So, what an honor to be called the name *Dad*.

Listen. I have a short sermon before a long sermon. Here's the short sermon to dads. I want to take us to God's final word in the Old Testament. Maybe you've never been there. It's the prophet Malachi. God has a final word to his people before he's quiet for 400 years.

Are final words important? Like, if someone was dying, and you went to visit them...you go to hospice, or whatever, and they go, "I want to tell you something. This is the last thing I want you to hear before I leave"...you would lean in, you would listen, and they would think a lot about what they were going to say.

In the same way... You're going to be surprised by this if you've never seen this. I want you to see what God's final word is. It's a word to dads. Look at this. Malachi 4:5: "**Behold...**" *Behold* means "Listen." It means "Stop whatever you're doing and look."

"...I will send you Elijah..." We talked about him last week. He's a prophet. **"...the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes."** Here's his final word. Verse 6: **"And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."**

Dad, here's what you need to know. I know Father's Day is for you, and you're going to go to lunch, and you're going to do a bunch of fun things, but here's a word to you dads. What do your kids need from you? I don't know. Whether they're 5 or 15 or 50, what do they need from you? Here's the answer from Scripture: they need your heart.

I know. You want to provide for them, and you want to protect them. Okay. Those are good things, to provide physically and spiritually and protect physically and spiritually, but don't forget *pursue*. What your kids need is your affection and your attention. Listen. At the end of this summer, I'm turning 38. Every time I see my dad, which is only four or five or six times a year, he gives me a hug and kiss, and guess what: I love it.

If you have a kid... I don't care if he's 12 or 13 or 14. Hug him and kiss him. If he says, "Dad, stop it," here's what that means: "Dad, keep doing it, please." That's what that actually means. They love it. Here's what it says. Dads' hearts need to be toward their kids. It says God does this work. It's a magical work God does in the heart of a man, where a man begins to love and care for his kids. That's the work of Christ in a man's life.

Then it says when a father loves his kids, their hearts turn back to him. Then do you see what it says at the end of the verse? If this does not happen, the Bible says, there's utter destruction. What happens is if dads don't love their kids, the nation, the church, and the city are doomed.

I'm going to make a theological statement, not a political statement. We live in a cursed nation because we live in a fatherless nation. We live in a cursed nation because one out of four kids will go to bed tonight with no dad in the home. So, here's what I want to say to dads. Dads, we said at the beginning you are unbelievably important.

What we want to do, as a church, is come alongside you. We want to encourage you. It's hard to be a dad today. It's hard to be a dad in 2022. It's like running into a stiff headwind. So, we want to honor dads. If you're a dad, stand up. You need some exercise anyway. Come on. Get on up, guys. Yes dads! Look at this! I love it. Guys, guess what.

Statistically speaking, the least likely Sunday for Dad to show up to church is today, because it's Father's Day, so Dad wants to golf, Dad wants to go to the lake, Dad wants to watch football. Dad doesn't want to be in church. Thank you, men, for being in church. When Dad loves Christ, when Dad connects his family to the church, it changes everything for the entire family. If this is your husband or your dad, you can put your hand on him if you want. We're going to pray for these men. Let's pray.

Lord, I thank you for these men. Lord, I thank you that they are dads. I don't know where they are with all this. I pray that no matter what has happened, no matter where their kids are, you would turn their hearts to their children. Maybe even while I'm preaching, they need to send a text message. They need to make a phone call this afternoon.

Some of them say, "I love my kids. My kid's heart isn't toward me." Lord, we pray for dads who on this day are brokenhearted. We pray for dads who feel like their dad never had the heart toward them. Lord, we pray for dads who have father wounds, that you would heal them.

Part of the way you heal a father wound is when a man becomes a father and begins to love and invest in the next generation. So, I pray these men would know they are loved. They're loved by their wives, they're loved by their kids, they're loved by you, and they're loved by this church. We pray this in Jesus' name, amen.

All right. We have a lot to cover, guys. Open up to 1 Samuel 16. If you don't know this, we think not in terms of Sundays and sermons, although I love both, but we think in terms of series. We're in a brand-new series. We gave you something when you came in. Some of you, if you're under 30, won't know what this is. This is a bookmark. There used to be these things called *books*. They're not on devices.

Anyway, this is a bookmark. What we want to connect you to... And it's really your decision whether you're going to do this or not, but the reason you connect yourself to a church is so we can help you, so we can give you the resources and the relationships you need. So, when we say, "Get in a Community Group and go to the Weekender and get on a serving team," that's all about relationships.

Then there are resources. So we gave you this. It's 1 Chronicles 10-29. Why is that? Well, I can't go through the whole life of David in seven weeks. We're going to hit some mountaintops and some valleys in his life, and that's about it. If it was 17 weeks, I probably couldn't get through it all. We'd probably need almost 70 weeks to get through it all.

If you read 1 Chronicles, it's a second account of the life of David. You might go, "Why do we start in chapter 10?" Well, chapters 1-9 are just a bunch of Hebrew names. If you open it up, you're going to go, "Why is the Hebrew phone book in my Bible?" That's what it is. But starting in chapter 10, you're going to be introduced to and get to know David and see his life unfold. On the back is a method to help you study the Bible. So that's for you.

So, we're in this series. Why did we call it *David*? Well, it's all about David. That's what the next seven weeks are going to be about. He's super famous. Obviously, you've heard of him. Whether you're a Christian and grew up in the church or not, almost everybody has heard of King David. No name is mentioned more in the Bible than David. Nope, not even Abraham. Nope, not Moses. He's the most mentioned person.

He shows up in 66 chapters of the Bible, and his name is mentioned over 1,000 times. That's a lot of times. He was a renaissance man. I know he lived before the Renaissance, but you know what I mean. He was a poet. He was a musician. He was a theologian. He wrote Scripture. He was a warrior. He fought many battles. We'll see next week he fights Goliath. He was a king. He was a shepherd. Then he had all of the identities we all have. He was a son. He was a father.

What we're going to do over the next seven weeks, just to prepare you, is we're going to look at David and see, really... Yes, he's a king, but he's actually more the same as us than he is different from us. We're going to see him as a sinner. We're going to see him as a friend. We're going to see him as a father. We're going to see him as a person who needs to fight battles. So, that's where we're going to go.

This, by the way... It's helpful to know context. What we're about to read was written 3,000 years ago. Yes, before air conditioning. Unbelievable. Yes, before the car. Yes, before you could get on a plane and travel to the other side of the nation in five hours. Because the Bible is timeless, it's always timely. So, as we read the Bible, we're like, "Wait a second. The human condition hasn't changed." I think it's going to deeply speak to us.

01 EVERY CHURCH HAS THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE

Okay. That's all introduction. Let's turn to 1 Samuel 16. I have to do a little bit of background work today. We won't do this every week. We're jumping right in the middle of a book. If you're new with us, what we normally do is we open up a book.

We're like, okay, Philippians 1, and then 2, and then 3, and then 4, and then we're done.

Because we're going to study the life of David, we're parachuting into the middle of this book. We're jumping in halfway through the book. So I have to introduce you to three characters. We're mostly going to talk about David in this series, but you have to understand Saul and Samuel to understand David. They're all in the first verse. Here's the first time they're all three mentioned in the same verse in the book. It's a great place to start.

"The LORD..." Do you see this in verse 1? In the ESV (that's the translation we read), if it says *LORD*, it's God's covenant name. Literally, it's all caps. It's *YHWH*. It says, **"The LORD said to Samuel..."** We'll talk about him in a second. Samuel was a great prophet. He was a great leader. He was a judge. He plays a unique role in the books of 1 and 2 Samuel. The books are named after him.

"The LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul...'" We're going to have to talk about Saul, and it is a sad story. I'll tell you about that in a second. Saul was the first king in Israel. David is the second king, but Saul was the first king. **"How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him..."** We'll talk about why he got rejected. **"...from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil..."**

Some of you thought that verse last week on oil was random. Here it is again, another verse on oil. **"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."** That's David. Here's what I want to talk about today. I want to talk about an idea. I first heard this idea articulated by a guy named R.T. Kendall. He's a pastor in his 90s now.

He said if you look at this passage, what you see is *yesterday's man, today's man, and tomorrow's man*. I just want you to get ready, because at the end of the service, I'm going to ask who you are. What we see is Samuel is today's man (we're going to talk about him), Saul is yesterday's man, and David is tomorrow's man.

Let's first talk about Samuel. We have to talk about him for a minute. He doesn't just appear on the pages of Scripture. He has a mom. Do you remember her name? It's Hannah. Hannah can't get pregnant. That happens to women. One out of three women over 30 can't get pregnant and want to.

She's heartbroken, and she's crying about it. She's making promises to God, and she basically says, "God, if you give me this kid, then I'm going to dedicate him to the Lord." I'm giving you the really short version. She has this miraculous kid, really. She

names him Samuel, and she basically gives him unto the Lord. She gives him to Eli and says, "Eli, will you disciple this kid?"

So Eli, this great man, begins to disciple Samuel. There's one night where Samuel is a little boy (we don't know how old), and he keeps hearing these voices. He's going to Eli and saying, "I'm hearing something," and Eli goes, "It's not me." He says, "Next time you hear the voice, here's what I want you to say: 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" That's the beginning, by the way, of Samuel becoming today's man.

What is the man or woman of God who God uses today? It's the person who says, "Speak, Lord. I'm still listening." Guess the first thing God says to Samuel. "Samuel, I'm doing something new." The problem with yesterday's man is he's not paying attention to what God is doing today.

Henry Blackaby, who wrote *Experiencing God*, said the role of the Christian is to find out "What is God up to? Where is God working? Among whom is God working? I want to show up and be part of that." So, he's today's man. This is what Samuel is. Today's man is often a transitional person. Like we're going to see, he anoints the first king. What he basically does is he brings Saul up into being a king.

Here's what happened. I know there's a lot of background today, but it's important to understand this whole story. Before Saul, the nation of Israel had human prophets and human priests, but God was their King. Then they looked around, like Christians often do... We look around at the world and go, "Well, they're doing it differently."

They go to Samuel and say, "We want a king." Samuel talks to God, and God is like, "Listen. You don't want a human king, because he's going to sleep with your wives. He's going to send your kids to war. He's going to tax you." They're like, "No, no. We want a king! We want a king!" God is like, "Okay, fine. I'll give you a king then." So, he gives them a king, and what he ends up giving them is Saul.

Saul at first... If you read chapters 9 and 10, Saul is a great guy for two chapters. Saul is today's man for two chapters. Some of you used to be today's man. You were today's man in high school. You were today's man in college. Saul got to be today's man for two chapters, and then he lost it. I want to encourage you in this, because this means it can change.

How do you become yesterday's man? It's always a choice. *Always*. It's a choice of consistent compromise. I don't have the time to unpack all of Saul's story, but, man, is it a sad story. Do you know Saul is one of the only people we don't know if he's in heaven or not? Theologians debate. There are certain people it's like, "No, they didn't

believe." There are certain people it's like, "They clearly believed." There are certain people who had hard times and then came back. It does not end well for Saul.

Saul is a great reminder to us that the last day is more important than the first day and how we finish is more important than how we start. So, you have Saul, and it's really a heartbreaking story. Then you have David. Now, here's the interesting thing about David. We're going to meet David. Depending on the Jewish tradition you read, he's somewhere between 10 and 18 years old. He's young.

He's either graduating from our kids' ministry or he's in our middle school ministry or he's in our high school ministry, at the oldest. What we're going to see today is Saul become yesterday's man. You heard that. "For I have rejected him." What's interesting about Saul also, by the way, is he still ends up being king for 20 more years. He doesn't realize he has lost the blessing and anointing of God on his life.

David is going to be anointed as the next king at the end of this chapter, but he won't become king for 20 or 25 more years. He still has a lot of hard things. By the way, if you're tomorrow's man, here's what you need to realize: *you will one day be who you are now becoming*. You understand this the older you get. Your life is the culmination of all of the decisions you have decided to make. Your life is the culmination of how you have decided to react and respond to everything that happens to you.

What I want us to see today... Here's our hope in our church. This is what we want to be. We say it a lot of different ways, but if I said it from this verse, we want to be a church where today's men and women invest in tomorrow's men and women. Why do we have a kids' ministry? Why do we have a student ministry? Why do we have a college ministry? Why do we have a residency? Because that's what we're doing.

02 THE PLAN AND PURPOSES OF GOD CANNOT BE STOPPED BY PEOPLE

Okay. Let's pick this up. We're going to follow, first, *today's man*. Here's today's man. Remember verse 1. ***"The LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him...'"*** Today's man knows when it is time to move on. ***"...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."***

Then if you look in verse 2, here's what it says: ***"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 to the LORD.'"*** If you're going to be today's man, you need to obey what God has said even when you're afraid. This is going to be a breakthrough

moment for Samuel. He's afraid. Would *you* be afraid? Probably you'd be afraid. "Okay. I want you to anoint another king."

"Well, actually, Saul is not a good guy. He's actually an ungodly guy, and he's in power, and if I do this, it'll probably start a civil war; therefore, Saul will probably kill me." So Samuel is afraid. Let me ask you this question: What are you afraid to do that you know you need to do? You don't want to say it out loud.

Maybe it's confess a sin. We talked about that last week. You're still struggling with the same thing in the exact same way. You know you are. Here's how you know you are: because every time, after you do it, you say you're going to tell somebody, and you don't. Or you go, "Lord, next time, if I do it again, then I'm going to tell somebody."

Listen. If you could get yourself out of this, you would have gotten yourself out of it already, so you need to tell somebody. You don't need to tell everybody. You need to tell somebody. That takes courage. It's like, "Well, I know the Bible says confess sins, but I'm afraid to do it." Today's men and women say, "You know what? I'm going to obey even when I'm afraid, and I'm going to trust God with the results."

Some of you are afraid to be generous. There are a lot of reasons people aren't generous. Some people are just stingy. They're worried about everything, and they're saving, and they're all about themselves. What I have found is, actually, the reason most people don't give is not that they're stingy; it's that they're scared.

Do you ever talk to people about this and it's a care conversation? That's what you get. You get some version of, when they're really honest, "I just don't know what I would do with 10 percent less income." Okay. Now I'm talking to the real you. You're not thinking *God's* economy; you're thinking of *your* economy. You're not thinking about the principle of blessing that if you put God first in it, God blesses it.

Here's a big one for many of you. Some of you are afraid to have the difficult conversations you need to have. I mean, the amount of men who are afraid of their wives... Some of you would laugh, but you're like, "She's right next to me. I can't laugh." It's like a meme. It's like a joke...men who are afraid of their wives.

I was talking to this guy. He leads these man camps. They're literally called *man camps*. They only do them in the winter. I'm like, "That sounds terrible." Then I asked some more about it. He's like, "Oh yeah. It's full-out camping." I'm like, "That sounds worse." Then he's like, "And there are no toilets." I'm like, "No, thank you" is my answer to that."

He'll do a couple of these. He'll get 300 or 400 guys to show up for two or three nights in the winter to camp outside. He's really having an influence on men. I said, "What are you doing?" He says, "When men come to my man camp, they do hard things, often for the first time in their lives, and then something happens inside of them, and they say, 'I'm the kind of person who can do hard things, so now I need to go back home and have the hard conversations I've never had.'"

Some of you are afraid to talk to your kids. You'd be surprised (or maybe you *wouldn't* be surprised) how many people are afraid of their teenage daughter. You know you are. She's doing some terrible things. If you talk to her, she'll cry. I know. Or your teenage son who's aloof. He spends way too much time on his devices, and you're pretty sure he's looking at pornography, and you don't like his friends, but you don't want to say anything. You need to say something.

We need to courageously take our next step forward. It's like, "This is what God has said. Yes, I'm afraid." So, here's what he does. This is really important. He says, "God, will you help me?" Isn't that powerful? "God, help me. How can this be possible?" I want you to know that I dedicate at least 25 percent of my sermons to the *how*.

Do you want to read your Bible? We just gave you how. It's on the back. Do you want to forgive? I'll help you know how to do it scripturally. Do you want to reconcile? We'll talk about how to do it. Do you want to do it? I can't help you if you don't say, "Lord, I want help."

So, basically, he says, "God, I want to obey you. This is a big moment. Will you help me?" and God says, "I'd love to help you." He says, "Here's what you're going to do. You're going to put it all in an environment of worship." He says, "We're going to go down and worship. You don't have to tell everybody everything. Go take Jesse and his sons down, and when you take them down to worship, then you'll anoint the new king." Samuel says, "I can do that."

See, God gives you one step at a time. What does the Bible say about the Word of God? It is a lamp to our feet. It doesn't say it's a high beam. We can't put our high beams on. It's a lamp. I get one step, I obey it (it's the dimmer switch principle), and then more lights turn on. "Oh, now I understand a little bit more. I've obeyed, so now I understand. Now I have taken *that* step, so now I can take the next step."

Look at what happens in verse 3. ***"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."*** So, he doesn't give him any more information. "I need you to go down. It's going to be one of Jesse's sons."

Verse 4: *"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?'"* Why did they ask that? Well, if you go back to chapter 15, the last thing Samuel does is he deals with something Saul wouldn't deal with. God had told Saul, "Hey, I need you to go kill this pagan king," and Saul didn't do it, so Samuel goes, and it literally says he chops him into pieces. Yikes!

Samuel is not a guy you mess around with, so when he shows up, you're like, "Uh, are you friendly?" His answer is, thankfully... Verse 5: *"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."* So they go down.

03 SAMUEL IS ABOUT TO BE SURPRISED

Verse 6: *"When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.'"* So, here's what happens. You could imagine this. God tells Samuel, "I want you to go down. Jesse has some sons. One of them is going to be the next king."

Now, you could imagine if in this room I said, "Hey, guys, today I want to announce that somebody in here is going to be the next president of the United States," you would look around at certain people and go, "Nope. Definitely not him," and you'd look at other people and go, "Probably him." Why would you do that? Well, maybe you don't even know them. Maybe it's just how they look.

He's talking about appearances. Look. I'll show you this. In verse 7, it says this. This is maybe one of the most famous verses in the life of David. *"But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance...'"* So he must have been good-looking or tall or strong or attractive. *"...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."*

Here's what he's saying. You'll meet a lot of people, and they look the part, but they don't have the heart. This is the whole temptation to just judge people on status, on how good-looking they are, on the car they drive, on the neighborhood they live in, on the clothes they wear.

I'm tempted to this. Every time I've gone to the Village Juice shop... Anyone ever been there? It's like everybody is the same there. It's like, "Let me guess. You're

coming from working out. Okay. You're wearing lululemon. Mm-hmm. You're willing to spend \$15 on an eight-ounce juice drink. Who are you? Like, what do you do? What world do you live in?"

I was in California this week at a conference. Every time I fly, I'm always walking into first class. Never sitting there, but walking past it. I'm always looking around, and I see all of these people. Do you ever have this thought? You're like, "What do you do?" They're all sitting there comfortably, drinking their drinks. You're like, "It's like \$500 more each way to sit in that seat." We're just overwhelmed by status.

The cars people drive, the credentials people have... It's the temptation to emphasize the external man over the inner man, to emphasize appearance over heart. Now, at first, appearance is all we have, so we have to make *some* judgments based on how you look. We know this is what happens. Taller men are more likely to get the job. Prettier women are more likely to get the job.

Neil Postman writes about this. He wrote a book called *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. I think he wrote it in the 80s. He was talking about the difference between radio and TV. Imagine if he wrote it today...Internet, streaming services, social media. He says we live in the age of the image over the idea.

Here's an interesting thing that happened. When Nixon and JFK debated one another, those who listened to it on the radio thought Nixon won, and those who watched on television thought JFK won, because Nixon made more compelling arguments, but JFK looked better. He was buttoned up. He knew how to smile. He knew how to interact with people.

This is unbelievably hard on us, to live in a time where there's so much that's expected from appearance. I'm going to show you an interesting picture. This is a picture from *Sex and the City*, and the other one is from *The Golden Girls*. Sarah Jessica Parker in the middle is the same age as the three women, not the lady in the blue. You're like, "You're lying!" No.

On the right, that was the expectation of what a lady in her mid to late 50s should look like, and then there's Sarah Jessica Parker. That's just in one generation. The expectations of how thin you should be, what your hair should look like, how you should dress... It's all changed.

So, here's what he's saying: God cares about the inner man. This is such a big theme. God cares about your heart. Now, what is your heart? Here's the best way to think of the heart. The heart is the real you, not the fake you, not the you you pretend

to be, not the persona, the simplified self you put together as you interact with us, certainly not the you at church, probably, and definitely not the you on social media.

A few years ago... I wasn't the pastor here yet when this happened. One of our friends calls us up, and she's crying on the phone because she thinks her husband is going to divorce her and her husband is going to leave her. She's sharing all of these horrible things about their marriage. I'm like, "Oh my gosh."

I remember my first thought was, "All I ever see are pictures of y'all hugging and kissing and eating out on social media. Oh, that's fake you. Fake you is doing fine. Real you is in trouble. Real you has a tough marriage." It was a moment for me. I'm like, "Wow! People really do live completely different lives online." Often, the people who post the lovey-dovey stuff most, it's like, "No."

What I've seen is the people who look like their lives are together... I'm normal, I think, a somewhat normal person. I'm impressed by certain people. It's like, "Wow!" Then you get to know them, and you're like, "Oh, their life is a mess." They've learned how to get one dimension of their life looking good...their dress and their looks. Everything else... Their kids hate them. Their finances are a wreck. Their marriage is on the rocks. They drink too much.

Here's a good question to ask, by the way: Do the people who know you best love you most? That's a real you question. The only industry I know is the church industry, if you call it an industry...pastors. So I'll just tell you a story that I know of how this works in the pastor world. I'm not saying every pastor who does this is doing it for this reason.

Why do pastors leave local churches to do conference speaking, consulting, and coaching? Well, first, there's a lot more money in it. Secondly, you don't have to be known. "Can I fly on this plane, and can I show up and give my two or three sugar-stick messages? Can I come in for two days, and can you put me in a hotel and take me out to dinner, and can I just tell you a couple of things I know about the church? You don't need to get to know me."

When you're a pastor, you're known by the people. Yes, I coach this team for my kids, and yes, I'm around. You'll see me at the grocery store. It's that kind of... Who is the real you? Whenever I say to you... You know the right answer. Right? You don't have to be a Christian. You know the right answer. If I asked, "Is the inner person more important than the outer person?" you'd go, "Oh yeah."

"Is the heart more important than appearance?"

"Oh yeah."

"Is character more important than competency?"

"Oh yeah."

But let me ask you this: How much time do you spend cultivating your heart? Some of you have lotions and perfumes and hair product, and you eat kale, and you work out every day, and you spend a lot of time in front of the mirror. Fair enough. You care so much about it. We don't spend any time in front of the mirror of God's Word.

The only way I know how to cultivate the heart... Well, there are a couple of ways, but one of the main ways is the spiritual disciplines. "Lord, I'm praying. I'm being honest. I'm confessing my sin. I'm searching the Scriptures. I'm asking you to change me. I'm reading my Bible. I'm memorizing it." It's the spiritual disciplines.

Well, here's the encouraging and maybe terrifying word. Here's what he's saying: God knows your heart. God knows the real you. Some of you just need to hear that. We're all in different places in this room. Some of you just need to hear God sees your heart, because you're like, "I'm trying. Nobody knows. I am praying about this, and I'm dealing with some stuff in my life. I'm trying to love God, and I'm trying to love others, and I feel like nobody sees it."

The encouraging word to you is that God sees your heart. Other people just need a warning. God sees your heart. You ain't getting away with nothing. I know; you can fool some people all the time and all people some of the time, but you can't fool God any of the time. That's what matters ultimately.

04 GOD SEES THE INVISIBLE AND FORGOTTEN

So, here's what's going to happen now. We're going to see David come on the scene. Look with me at verse 8. *"Then Jesse called Abinadab..."* That's his second oldest son. *"...and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' 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?'"*

Think about it. It's like, "All right. God is not lying. He told me what to do. He says, 'Go down and get Jesse's sons. I'm going to tell you which one is king.' I come down. I get

Jesse's sons, and you tell me none of them are king. This means someone is not here." Look at what he says.

"Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he [Jesse] 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.'" I can't stress enough that the first time David is mentioned he's forgotten. Do you notice this?

It's a weird thing on Father's Day, but actually, Jesse is a terrible father. He's a counter-vision. I can show you. He does at least four things in the passage that tell you he's a terrible dad. He has some dysfunctional relationship with his youngest son. We don't know all of the details.

The first is when he's told to get all of his sons, he gets all of his sons except David. *All* of them. You have to understand this. It's not like he grabs his two oldest and says, "It's probably going to be the firstborn or second born." It's not that he grabs four of the eight and says, "These are my four best." He grabs everybody but David.

Then the second thing is, after all of the sons walk by... Okay. That's over. You would think a good dad might go, "Okay. I forgot one. I should go get him." No. He doesn't even say, "I have another son." He has to be asked by Samuel. Samuel says, "Are these all of your sons?"

Then (this is really sad) he doesn't even name David by name. He says, "There remains one, the youngest." Literally, in the Hebrew, the *least*. Least, Jesse? Least in your affections? Least in your esteem? What do you mean "least"? Then it appears that he doesn't even want to go get him. Samuel has to stand up and go, "I'm not..." Samuel is the first person to honor David.

That's part of what today's man does. He honors the next generation. He honors those who have been forgotten. Samuel, the great prophet, says, "I'm not sitting down until David gets here, so somebody go get him." Now, I have to talk about this for a minute, because in a room this size, online, and in the lobby, and all that, I would imagine some of you feel forgotten and invisible. It's a terrible feeling.

It could be at work. It's like, "I'm overlooked constantly. I'm overlooked by my own coworkers. I'm certainly overlooked by my boss. Does anybody even notice what I'm doing?" People feel overlooked all the time by their parents sometimes. This is why one of the main teachings in the book of Genesis is "Don't play favoritism."

You'll meet women every once in a while who are like, "I was the less pretty daughter, unfortunately. It's not my fault, but I didn't get the same affection and attention from

Mom and Dad." Or you meet a son every once in a while, and his life is a wreck. You're like, "What happened?" and he's like, "Dude, I'm the mess-up in the family. I couldn't do academics, and I couldn't do athletics, so I'm just kind of the mess-up."

You will meet a lot of wives over time who feel completely forgotten and invisible to their spouse. It's like, "We go out, and he talks about the business. He never talks about me. He tells stories and forgets I'm in there. I feel like, 'Do I even need to be here?'" The message from Scripture on the authority of God's Word is that those who are forgotten and invisible to the world are remembered and seen by God. That's what it says.

So, now we're going to actually see David. David is going to come. Again, he's a teenager. But where do they have to go to get him? He's a shepherd. This was a not respected, blue-collar job in that society. Here's another reminder: David is not doing something great when we first meet him. Where you start is not necessarily where you're going to stay.

I think about my own life. I'm not saying I'm anyone great or I'm doing anything great, but I certainly didn't wake up doing *this*. I mean, I started out... I was a paper boy. Then I worked at McDonald's all through high school, and then I finally got promoted and went over to Pizza Hut. True story.

Then in my freshman year of college, my dad said to me, "Hey, I've got a great job for you. You're going to make \$10 an hour." This was 20 years ago. I thought, "Wow!" My dad forgot to tell me it was a 4:00 p.m. to midnight job and inside of a fridge. So, I worked inside a fridge all summer long. By the way, God used that. You never know how God is preparing you.

The thing is we want to be King David in 25 years from what's happening right now. We want to be King David reigning. It reminds me... There's an older pastor. He's in his 70s, and he's a conference speaker and book writer, well known. He says, every once in a while, young guys will come up to him and go, "I want to do what you do." He's a really funny guy, and he says, "What I say to them is 'Do you want to do what I did?'" He says, "People want to do what you do, but they don't want to do what you did."

The whole idea... Here's what he's doing. David is doing something that could be thought of as punishment but is actually preparation. It's a trying time, but it's also a training time. I don't know what in your life you might look at as punishment but actually might be preparation for something next. So, let's look at David. What is David? Let's give three things.

First, he's a shepherd. He's a teenager. He's probably walking around like, "What am I doing with my life? It's me alone with all of these sheep all day. All I do is lead them and feed them. I know them, I protect them, and I take care of them." It's like, "Well, actually, we're going to need you to lead, feed, know, and protect God's people, so this will be good training for you." But he doesn't know that.

You can't understand God's will for your life looking through the windshield. You talk to anybody, and it's like, "How do I know God's will for my life? I understand it when I see it in the rearview mirror. *That's* why that happened to me. *That's* why I had the parents I had. *That's* why I had the experience. *That's* why I have the personality I have." God gave me a uniquely loud voice. I was just born with that. I talk too loudly all the time. Now I'm a preacher. Here it is.

How about the second thing he has? He has a slingshot. I'm taking some liberty talking about this, but I think it's not far from the truth. He's probably out with all of his sheep. We'll see next week he knows how to shoot a slingshot. So, he gets pretty good with his hobby. He's probably like, "What good is *this* going to be?"

It's like, "Wait until the next chapter. When you meet Goliath, it's going to be really good that you know how to do this." Some of you go, "What is *this* goofy hobby? I'm good at *this*. I'm good with technology. I have all of these hobbies and these desires. What are they going to be used for?"

Or how about...? While he's out there, he's writing a lot of songs. "No one will ever hear these. These are just songs I wrote for myself." It's like, "Actually, no. You'll become the most famous singer-songwriter ever, and your songs are going to encourage and comfort the church for 3,000 years."

What is God using right now in your life to prepare you? Well, you don't fully know. We don't know until we get there, and we go, "Oh, that's how God prepared me." Let me give you a couple of things God tends to use. Your parents, obviously. Some of you have great parents, so they end up being a vision, and then some of you have terrible parents, so they end up being a counter-vision, which is a terrible thing to say out loud.

Sometimes you're like, "I had the experience, and I don't want to be my dad," which is horrible to say, but people get there. Here's another terrible thing to say: "I don't want my parents' marriage." God uses things. God will often use your suffering. We've said here for years that your greatest ministry is going to come out of either your greatest suffering or your greatest sin struggle where you're now obeying God.

Suffering people want to be ministered to by people who have suffered, and people who are struggling with sins want to be ministered to by people who have had that same sin struggle and came out the other side. So, we meet David as a teenager, as a shepherd boy, long before he's going to become a shepherd king. By the way, this is why we care so much about investing in the next generation here.

I'd feel remiss if I didn't say this. This week, over 30 students from our high school ministry are in Mississippi doing a mission trip. Over 30 students from our middle school ministry are doing another mission trip in Kentucky. Some of the high schoolers are coming back, and in two weeks they're going to Mexico. Then 40 of our students are going to a student ministry retreat this summer. Why? Because we genuinely believe in investing in the next generation.

05 GOD LOVES TO DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY WITH THE ORDINARY

So, finally, David comes. Look at verse 12. In verse 12, we get David. Here's what it says: *"And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy..."* That's a hard word to translate. It can either mean dirty, freckled, or he has red hair, which is a great encouragement. God can even use redheads. I'm kidding. I'm kidding.

He sent him in. *"Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome."* It doesn't say, "And he was the sorriest-looking fellow I'd ever seen." It's not that he had no gifts. It was that the heart was more important than the gifts. He had gifts. He was a good-looking guy. He had beautiful eyes, it says.

"And the LORD said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he.'" You have to understand... One of the main points of this entire passage is that God picks the people everybody else forgets. There are no perfect people. We're going to see David is a big sinner. He's going to be an adulterer. He's going to be a liar. He's going to be a murderer. He's not a perfect person.

Everybody God picks... There are no perfect people, so he just picks whoever he wants to use. Was Noah perfect? No. He got drunk as soon as he got off the ark. You're like, "Well, maybe Abraham." No. Abraham was a liar, and he put his wife in danger. You're like, "Well, okay. Aha! Jacob." No. Jacob was also a liar and had a terrible relationship with his brother.

"What about Moses?" No. Moses had an anger problem his whole life. He killed an Egyptian. He broke the first set of the Ten Commandments. He struck the rock instead of speaking. Actually, Moses struggled with unrighteous anger his whole life.

There was grace, and he grew in it. Rahab was a prostitute. Solomon was a womanizer. We don't have time to talk about the twelve disciples. They were all a mess. God chooses these people we would otherwise not choose.

Look at what it says here. Verse 13: ***"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."*** This is the first of three anointings. It's the first private anointing just with David's family, and it's God's way to say to David... It's a picture of radical grace. It's a picture of what happens to every person when they come to Christ. God says, "I choose you." David didn't do anything to earn this.

I love what Charles Spurgeon said. Charles Spurgeon essentially said, "I'm glad God chose me before I was born, because he would have never chosen me afterward." Isn't that great? It's this powerful picture of choosing. It reminded me of a show I saw years ago. I don't know if anyone here has ever seen the show *Extreme Makeover: Weight Loss Edition*. If you want to cry for an hour, watch that show.

What happens on the show is... I don't know how else to call them. These people who are morbidly obese, 400 pounds or more, write in to this guy named Chris. He's a personal trainer who specializes in helping morbidly obese people lose a lot of weight in a year. I'm talking someone may lose 150 to 200 pounds in a year.

So, all of these people write letters, like, "Here's my story," and all this. Every year, Chris just chooses one person, because it's a full immersive experience. He gets maybe thousands of letters. Eventually, when he picks someone, say, this guy named Tim... Say he's going to pick Tim.

When he finally picks Tim, he calls Tim's family. He says, "I want to visit Tim in the environment in which he's getting fat," which is actually a powerful picture of the gospel. "I want to visit him where he's stuck in his sin." They're always like, "Well, he's going to be at the doughnut shop. He goes there every morning and gets a couple of doughnuts before he goes to work." He goes, "Then I'm going there."

What's amazing is he shows up in their life. It's a moving scene. You have to Google it and watch it sometime. He does this every year. He shows up in their life. They're somewhere, and they see him, and they know who he is. Then he looks at them and goes, "I choose you," and they just start crying. He says, "We're leaving tonight." He takes them on a plane, and he begins to invest in them for a year. The illustration falls apart, because we didn't even write God the letters. It's a powerful picture that God says, "I choose you."

Then it says here David is given a heart. It says he has a heart that's after God, and he's given the Spirit. Guess what. We can have the same heart David has, because it's the heart of flesh that the prophet Jeremiah tells us every Christian gets when they trust Christ.

When you become a Christian, God removes your heart of stone, he calls it, and gives you a heart of flesh. Then he gives you the person of the Holy Spirit. See, there it says the Spirit rushed upon him. In the Old Testament, the Spirit is *upon* you. In the New Testament, the Spirit is *inside* of you. God gives us a new heart, and God gives us a new power.

This is the moment where David is going from being tomorrow's man to being today's man. I want you to see what happens. Look at the end of verse 13. ***"And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah."*** This is amazing, because this is the second-to-last mention of Samuel.

If you're reading the book, it's Samuel, Samuel, Samuel. It's Samuel and Saul. It's Samuel and Saul. It's Samuel, Samuel. Now it's Samuel and David. Now Samuel is gone. He goes to Ramah. He's only going to be mentioned one more time. Samuel is mentioned in 1 Samuel 19. Remember I told you there are about 20 years where David is anointed but not yet the king, and Saul is really making it hard on David.

David, as tomorrow's man, somehow knows where Samuel is. He goes and visits today's man and says, "Will you help me?" What a powerful picture. "I am tomorrow's man. Things are not going how I thought they were going to go, and I need today's man to help me out." That's exactly what Samuel does for him. Then, in chapter 25, Samuel dies, and there's a small funeral for him. That's the end of Samuel.

What I want to do today is I just want to ask you... I told you I was going to do this. I just want to ask you... Are you yesterday's man or woman? Are you today's man? Or are you tomorrow's man? I told you (and I mean it), to be yesterday's man is a choice. Some of you are making that choice with the decisions you are making. The way you become yesterday's man is through constant and consistent compromise and an unwillingness to repent.

Last night, after the service, I was talking to a lady outside. I ask the same question all the time. "Why did you come? Why did you come back?" She said something very interesting after this message. She said, "This is kind of weird. We realized we were part of yesterday's church." I thought, "Wow!" New thought. I guess if there can be yesterday's men there can be yesterday's church filled with yesterday's men and women.

Part of why Saul could never get there is he could never rejoice in David. He could never rejoice in the next generation. This is, by the way, why churches get stuck all the time. It's all about "me." It's all about what "I" need. It's not about the next generation. Today's man thinks about the next generation.

There are others of you who feel like you're yesterday's man or woman. You meet people like this. It's like, "It's my divorce. It's what I did financially. It was a long time ago, but it was really bad." Something in your past... The only way people stay yesterday's men and women is because they won't repent. As soon as you say, "God, I want to do the right thing. Will you help me...?"

Here's the good news. You can walk in here yesterday's men and women, and you can leave here today's men and women. That's the power of the gospel. Most of us in this room need to be today's men and women. In fact, I'm going to do something else. If you're 30 or older, stand up, please. Don't be afraid. Stand up. There are a lot of you in this room. Okay, listen. You are today's men and women. We need you.

Some of you feel like you're too young. Some of you feel like you're too old. Well, when were you the right age? Was there just one day where you were like, "This is it"? No. We need you. We need you to invest in the men and women of tomorrow today. We need you to be husbands and fathers and mothers and wives. We just want to say, "Thank you." We believe in you. You may be seated. I wanted you to see that.

Now if you're under 30, stand up. Look at this church, guys. Men and women, you are the men and women of tomorrow. We love you. The Scripture says, "Do not give your strength and your youth to evil things." We live in a culture where people don't think they're ever going to get older than 40, and they make a bunch of foolish decisions, and then they have a midlife crisis.

They climb a ladder, and then they realize it was leaning against the wrong wall. We just want to tell you that we love you. We're here for you. We're praying for you. What this church wants to do is connect today's men and women to you guys, because you will one day be who you're now becoming. You may be seated.

Guys, how we're going to end is we're going to sing a song together. The song is called "Same God." David is mentioned in it. A lot of people from the Old and New Testament are mentioned in it. Here's the whole idea: we have the same God as David. No, we're not kings. No, we're not getting written about in the Bible, but we have the exact same God.

If you have the same God, it means you can be a different person, because that's what God does. What God has done in men's lives in changing hearts, in giving the

Holy Spirit... What he did he is still doing. So, I'm going to pray for us, and then let's stand and sing together to our great God and King. Pray with me.

Lord, I just want to give a moment for these men and women, if they feel like, for some reason, they're yesterday's men and women, that they would receive the grace of God in their lives. Lord, part of being human is that we cannot control the future, and we cannot change the past. There are things all of us are ashamed of that we've done in the past. Some of them are more grievous than others, Lord. Some of them mark our conscience.

I just pray that you would speak over anyone here (if they're not dead, Lord, you're not done with them) and they would experience grace and repentance. Lord, I pray for anyone who's on the slippery slope of becoming yesterday's men and women through consistent compromise. Lord, I pray for repentance.

Lord, we pray for today's men and women, that they would embrace what you're doing. We don't have tomorrow's men and women if today's men and women don't invest in them. Lord, we pray for the next generation. We know you care about every generation, but especially the next. We ask all this in Jesus' name, amen.