

## DAY 18: Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> — *GOD'S UNLIKELY CHOICE*

*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."  
—1 Samuel 16:1*

### *God's choices are often not what we expect!*

Samuel obeys God's command and goes to the house of Jesse even though he knows Saul will kill him if he finds out. Jesse presents his sons to Samuel, but Samuel passes them all over. But Jesse has one more son, a young boy who is out tending the sheep, a boy named David. He is God's choice for Israel's new king.

After his anointing, the Holy Spirit comes "powerfully" on David, further certifying him as God's choice. David is described as glowing with health, having a fine appearance, a brave man, and a warrior. David is also a musician who plays the lyre and is employed by Saul to soothe him with music.

David is placed in the palace not as a ruler, **but as a servant**. He has gone from a shepherd in a field to a musician in a palace. But God's plans are sovereign, and this unlikely choice will demonstrate to all Israel God's favor with him.

**God's choices are often not what we expect.** Does God choose the "good" people that have got it all together? The really talented people? Smart people? The people who come from good family backgrounds? Charismatic or outgoing people? Good looking people?

Gideon was a poor farmer hiding in fear (Judges 6), Jephthah was rejected by his family and lived in exile (Judges 11), Samson struggled with pride (Judges 16), Mary was a young teenage girl, and Joseph was a carpenter. Even Jesus' choice in friends were strange: a despised tax collector, a prostitute, uneducated fishermen, and an angry rebel.

But, as God instructed Samuel, *"The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart"* (1 Samuel 16:7). David was a shepherd boy with the heart of the King.

*I can remember seeing a broadcast of the television series Britain's Got Talent from 2009 when a shy, awkward, middle-aged, Scottish woman stepped on stage. The audience laughed at her appearance. But when she sang, her voice was like that of the angels. The shocked audience rose to their feet in cheers and applause. Susan Boyle would have the UK's best-selling debut album of all time. By 2019 she released eight studio albums and sold nearly 20 million records around the world.*

The world judges people by how they look, how they dress, and how they speak—but God judges people by the intentions of their hearts and their faith in Jesus, His son.

### Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- ▶ Have you ever misjudged someone when you first met them?
- ▶ Have you ever been angry when someone else was chosen instead of you?
- ▶ Have you ever been the unlikely choice for something?
- ▶ How are we to respond to God's choices?

(Source: <https://wheatonbible.org/daily-devotional/gods-unlikely-choice/>)

**— RESTORE —  
BE IN THE ROOM  
WHERE THINGS HAPPEN**

### LIFE APPLICATION

*Evaluate what Really Matters*

*If you're always busy, chances are you're perhaps not watching carefully how you live*

*Using my time wisely in light of Eternity  
What's at the top of my priority list?*

### Devotional Text

1Samuel 16:1-7  
Judges 6:15  
1Corinthians 1:20-25