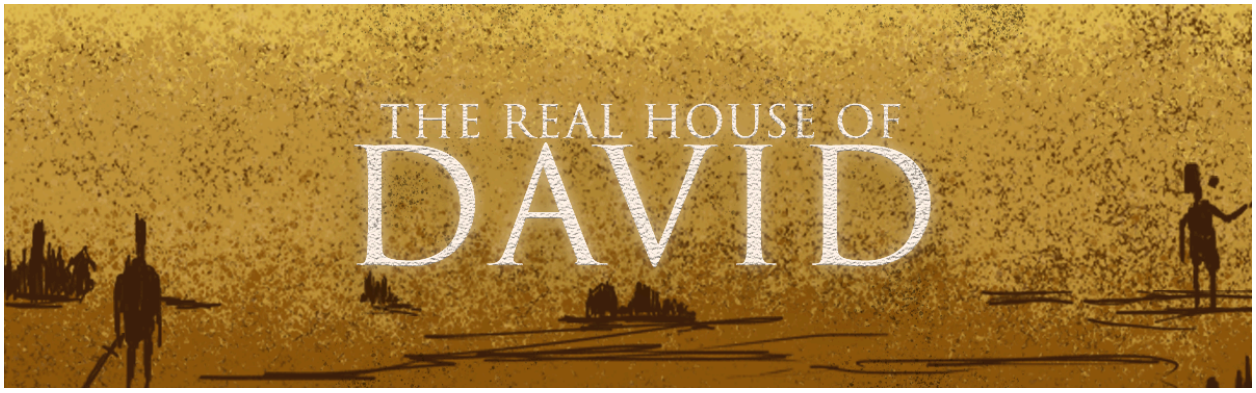


ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE

1 Samuel 16:1-23

- **David is the most mentioned man in the Old Testament, and is mentioned many times in the New Testament.**
- **For most of his life David was fully committed to loving and living for the Lord. (1 Samuel 13:14).**
- *"God removed Saul from the kingship and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, `David son of Jesse is a man after My own heart.'"* (Acts 13:22)
- **David faced the same challenges we face, and overcame them because of his relationship with the Lord and reliance upon Him.**
- David to Goliath – *"You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD."* (1 Samuel 17:45)
- **When we learn how to rely on the Lord we will slay the "giants" in our lives (Romans 8:31, 37).**
- ***What is involved in accepting the Lord's challenge to become a "difference-maker" in our world?***

Accepting The Challenge Involves Being:

APPOINTED BY THE LORD

- The Lord – *"Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be My new king."* (1 Samuel 16:1)
- *"All seven of Jesse's sons were presented to Samuel. But Samuel said, 'The LORD has not chosen any of these.'"* (1 Samuel 16:10)
- The Lord - *"The LORD doesn't make decisions the way you do! People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at a person's thoughts and intentions."* (1 Samuel 16:7)
- **We learn from the dialogue between God and Samuel that the Lord speaks to His people to give us direction; and that the Lord is more impressed with our inward "heart" than our outward appearance (1 Samuel 16:6-10).**

- **God selects His people *In Spite of our Weaknesses*.**
    - *"Samuel asked, 'Are these all the sons you have?' 'There is still the youngest,' Jesse replied."* (1 Samuel 16:11)
    - **The Lord often selects the least likely candidates through which to accomplish His plans and purposes.**
    - *"God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and He chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. . . . God did this so that no one can brag . . .'"* (1 Corinthians 1:27-31)
    - **God can transform "nobodies" into "somebody's."**
- **God selects His people *To Carry out His Will*.**
    - *"God said, 'David son of Jesse is a man after My own heart, for <u>he will do everything I want him to</u>.'"* (Acts 13:22)
    - **We sometimes think that God has forgotten us, but the Lord has great plans for each of our lives.**
    - *"We are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things He planned for us long ago."* (Ephesians 2:10)
    - **Success for Christians is finding and living in God's will.**
- ***What is the Lord's will for my life, and what do I need to do to "get in it"?***

Accepting The Challenge Involves Being:

<u>ANOINTED</u> BY THE LORD

- *"The LORD said, 'This is the one; anoint him.' Samuel took the olive oil and poured it on David's head. And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him from that day on."* (1 Samuel 16:12-13)
- **Every Christian is indwelled by the Holy Spirit, but not every Christian has been empowered by the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17, Acts 1:8)**
- **The "anointing of the Spirit" brings supernatural *Perception to our Lives*.**
    - *"One of the servants said to Saul, 'The son of Jesse is…<u>brave and strong and has good judgment</u>."* (1 Samuel 16:18)
    - The Disciples - *"Select seven men who are well respected and are <u>full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom</u>."* (Acts 6:3)
    - **When we have the anointing of the Lord we will have the wisdom to discern God's will and way for our lives.**
- **The "anointing of the Spirit" brings supernatural *Power to our Lives*.**
    - Jesus - *"When the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power . . ."* (Acts 1:8)
    - **The anointing of God's Spirit gives us the power to live for Him (Galatians 5:16) and serve Him through serving others (Romans 7:4).**

- ***How much better would my life be if I was living daily in the power of the Holy Spirit?***

Accepting The Challenge Involves Being:

AVAILABLE TO THE LORD (1 Samuel 16:14-23)

- **Sometimes the Lord wants us to minister in unusual places to unusual people (1 Samuel 16:14-23).**
- *"David went to Saul and served him. Saul liked David very much, and David became one of Saul's armor bearers."* (1 Samuel 16:21)
- **The Lord wants us to make *Our Time* available to Him.**
    - *"Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days."* (Ephesians 5:16)
    - **We're to use our time wisely, and one wise way to use our time is by serving God through serving others.**
    - *"Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."* (Galatians 5:13)
- **The Lord wants us to make our *Talents* available to Him.**
    - **Every Christian has been blessed with spiritual gifts and talents (Romans 12:3-8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-27).**
    - *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others."* (1 Peter 4:10)
    - ***What abilities do I possess that could be used to minister to others?***
- **The Lord wants us to make our *Testimonies* available to Him.**
    - *"David told Saul. 'I'll go fight this Philistine!' Saul replied. 'There is no way you can go against this Philistine. You are only a boy. David said, 'The Lord who saved me from the lion and the bear will save me from this Philistine!'"* (1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37)
    - **We need to be telling others about who the Lord is to us and what He's done for us.**
    - *"Jesus said, 'Go back to your family and tell them all the wonderful things God has done for you.' So he went all through the city telling about the great thing Jesus had done for him."* (Luke 8:39)
    - **When Christians utilize their time, talents and testimonies to minister to others it makes a positive impact on the people around them.**

- "We often treat Jesus the way Saul treated David. We want him to slay giants and sing evil spirits away, but we don't want him to be King." - A.W. Tozer
- *"David was skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the Lord was with him."* (1 Samuel 16:18)

- **The Lord has promised that we can always count on His presence in our lives when we are surrendered to Him (Hebrews 13:5).**
- **When we and others know that “the Lord is with us” we are on our way to becoming strong and successful soldiers in the Lord’s army*.***
- ***What is the Lord communicating to me today?***