



Sermon Study Guide

The Kingmaker: The Boy Who Would Be King

1 Samuel 16:1-18:16 – Sunday, June 2, 13

**Study questions are in italics*

Introduction

- In 1789, George Washington was elected our first president, but we didn't know what to call him. The United States Senate wanted him known as "His Highness, the President of the United States and Protector of Their Liberties." The former general preferred the simple, "Mr. President."
- It's hard to imagine Americans today being so deferential to authority. We may disagree profoundly on the role of government, but most would cringe at the thought of anyone—president or king—telling them what to do. As the Italian poet, Pietro Aretino, wrote, "I am, indeed, a king, for I know how to rule myself." This is the spirit of the age.
- But what if there was a king who was truly brave, good, wise, and strong? Would you be willing to live under his authority? Once, there was a king like that, and his name was David.
- In 1 Samuel 16-18:16, we are introduced to Israel's greatest king. *If you knew you could trust a human king, would you be willing to live under his authority?*

First Pass: Getting Familiar with Our Passage

- Chapter 16 begins with God reminding Samuel that Saul has lost his crown (16:1-5). Samuel soon discovers that David is going to be king (16:12-13). God anoints David and fills him with his Spirit.
- Saul's life is falling apart. The Spirit of the LORD leaves him. A harmful spirit torments Saul. But we see God's providence nonetheless. Because of Saul's suffering, a royal servant recommends Saul send for David, a well-known musician. David becomes a friend of the royal court (16:14-23). It is hard to understand why God would send a "harmful spirit" to Saul, but we see how God uses it for good. *Can you explain how God is sovereign in the midst of suffering? (Hint: see Gen. 50:20 and Acts 2:22-24).*
- The Philistines and Hebrews are once again at war. Goliath, a giant of a man, challenges any Hebrew to battle (17:1-11). The winner wins the whole war. Unsurprisingly, no Israelite is willing to fight, except David (17:24-27). Saul sends for David and, for some reason, agrees to let him challenge Goliath (17:31-37). David managed to defeat the enemy (17:48-58).
- Chapter 18 begins by announcing the friendship between Jonathan and David. *Why do you think they became such good friends? (Hint, they had something in common! See 1 Sam. 14:6-15). What can you learn about being a friend from the relationship between Jonathan and David?*
- Chapter 18 ends with division between Saul and David. David gains the favor of all Israel. Saul is angry, jealous, and violent (18:6-16). *Why did God withdraw his hand from Saul? Have you ever experienced the Lord's discipline in a similar way?*

Second Pass: Getting to Know King David

- First, David is the king they didn't expect.
 - Read 16:6-13. *Why wasn't Jesse even going to show David to Samuel? Read 17:12-15. Why does the author introduce us again to David? In other words, what point is he trying to drive home? Eliab didn't think David competent (17:28-29). Saul thought David was a joke (17:33). Goliath was offended that David thought he could fight*

him (17:42-43). Not even Samuel considered David a viable candidate for the crown. Read 16:6-7. God does not judge by outward appearance, he looks at the heart. The people expected the king to be like Eliab—seasoned and strong. God wanted a man who had a heart for him.

- Application: Christian, tend to your heart!
 - *How much of your time is devoted to outward appearance (exercise, attire) and how much is devoted to your heart? What are some practical ways, this week, you can tend to your heart?*
 - *What pleases God in a local church? What are some practical ways you can help your church be pleasing to God?*
- Second, David is the king they didn't deserve.
 - Old Testament history is the tale of Israel's unworthiness, yet God is always faithful (see Hosea 11:8-9). The gift of David as king is evidence of God's faithfulness. Saul was the king the people deserved. David is the king they didn't deserve.
 - David's character bursts through in his words to Goliath. Read 17:44-47. Four observations.
 - One: David came in the name of the LORD. David was not intimidated by Goliath's strength because David knew he didn't come in his power. He came to Goliath representing the God of Israel. *As Christians, how do we represent Christ in day-to-day life? How would realizing that we come to others in God's name change our attitude toward evangelism and discipling?*
 - Two: David confronted those who defy the LORD. David knew that Goliath's enemy wasn't finally Israel, it was God himself. Goliath was in danger because he was opposing God. This is why our sin is so dangerous, isn't it? Sin is defiance of God. *What does it look like to take your sin seriously? How can you begin the day preparing for the fight against sin?*
 - Three: David fought for the glory of the LORD. David explains why he is going to be victorious. It is so "that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel." *What does David want the world to understand about God? Read Psalm 86:9. How would you describe David's heart for the nations? How can you fight for God's glory?*
 - Four: David saved the people of the LORD. But he didn't just save them physically (from the Philistines). In a sense, he saved them spiritually. Their biggest problem wasn't Goliath, it was their unbelief in God. That's why David explains that he is going to be victorious so "that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear." He wanted Israel to trust the LORD. *What is it about God and his work that you have the hardest time trusting?*
- Third, David is the king who can't save us.
 - We have a lot to learn from David's life. But he is not merely an example for us. He is an arrow, pointing us to a greater king, Jesus Christ.
 - Like David, Jesus is the king no one expected. He was unappealing physically (Isa. 53:1-2) and rejected personally (Isa. 53:3). And nobody in the first century or today expected the Lord of the Universe to be a simple carpenter who died on a bloody cross.
 - Like David, Jesus is the king no one deserved. He did more than risk his life the way David did, Jesus gave up his life (Mark 10:45) for all who would repent and believe. *What is the point of the story of David and Goliath? What is it like to live under the authority of King Jesus?*