

Discussion Questions for The Story of David Pt1 | September 26, 2021

Key Bible Passages: 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23

Discussion Questions

1. Coming into this study, what is your perspective on David? What stories are you most familiar with about David? What three words would you use to describe David?
2. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-3.
 - a. Why is it so important that Samuel anoint the new king with oil? What symbolism or meaning does an act like anointing have?
 - b. Read Psalm 23. Why is anointing mentioned in this Psalm?
 - c. Are there any defining moments in your life that conveyed the symbolism and meaning of anointing? What might this look like in our culture?
3. Read 1 Samuel 16:4-7.
 - a. Why is someone's outward appearance so important to us?
 - b. What judgments do we make about other people based on their outward appearance?
 - c. Consider the statement: "People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." How is this good news to us and how is this bad news to us?
4. Read 1 Samuel 16:8-13, 18.
 - a. David's outward appearance and abilities are highlighted in verses 12 and 18 (which comes from the next story). How did you feel about David when you read these descriptions of him?
 - b. How are these descriptions a crucial part of the story and its message to us?
5. How much time, attention, and energy do you give to your appearance, abilities, and accomplishments compared to your heart? Be honest.
6. Who are the people you compare yourself to the most?
7. How would trusting in God as your shepherd change your relationship with him? IN what ways do you not trust in God as your shepherd?
8. How do you feel personally challenged by this story and message, and what will you do about it this week?

Moving Forward

- Resolve to make studying David's life a priority over the next two months. Set aside time to read through his story in 1 and 2 Samuel and through the Psalms associated with him.

- You might purchase *Leap Over a Wall*, Eugene Peterson's excellent book about David.
- This week, try to take note of when you are focusing on the external qualities of others and then pause to consider what God looks at.
- Incorporate one practice in your life this week that will give attention to your heart.
- Consider reading Psalm 23 every morning this week and praying through it before you begin your day.