

Character: The Internal Priority  
1 Samuel 16

1 Samuel 16:1 (HCSB)

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long are you going to mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem because I have selected a king from his sons."

1 Samuel 16:6-12 (HCSB)

When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and said, "Certainly the LORD's anointed one is here before Him." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or his stature, because I have rejected him. Man does not see what the LORD sees, for man sees what is visible, but the LORD sees the heart." Jesse called Abinadab and presented him to Samuel. "The LORD hasn't chosen this one either," Samuel said. Then Jesse presented Shammah, but Samuel said, "The LORD hasn't chosen this one either." After Jesse presented seven of his sons to him, Samuel told Jesse, "The LORD hasn't chosen any of these." Samuel asked him, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," he answered, "but right now he's tending the sheep." Samuel told Jesse, "Send for him. We won't sit down to eat until he gets here." So Jesse sent for him. He had beautiful eyes and a healthy, handsome appearance. Then the LORD said, "Anoint him, for he is the one."

I. The way God **Chooses** Character

1 Samuel 16:7 (HCSB)

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or his stature, because I have rejected him. Man does not see what the LORD sees, for man sees what is visible, but the LORD sees the heart."

Psalms 147:10-11 (HCSB)

He is not impressed by the strength of a horse; He does not value the power of a man. The LORD values those who fear Him, those who put their hope in His faithful love.

II. The way God **Contrasts** Character

1 Samuel 13:13-14 (HCSB)

Samuel said to Saul, "You have been foolish. You have not kept the command which the LORD your God gave you. It was at this time that the LORD would have permanently established your reign over Israel, but now your reign will not endure. The LORD has found a man loyal to Him, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not done what the LORD commanded."

- Saul - The **People's** Choice

1 Samuel 8:7-9 (HCSB)

But the LORD told him, "Listen to the people and everything they say to you. They have not rejected you; they have rejected Me as their king. They are doing the same thing to you that they have done to Me, since the day I brought them out of Egypt until this day, abandoning Me and worshiping other gods. Listen to them, but you must solemnly warn them and tell them about the rights of the king who will rule over them."

- David – The **Proper** Choice
- ✓ A Heart of Devotion

1 Samuel 13:14 (NIV)

"But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command."

J. Oswald Sanders

Being a man after God's own heart, David longed to serve Him well, whether as an obscure shepherd or as the highest reigning monarch. But woven through his enviable life were tough threads of humanity. While great and gallant, David was nevertheless merely a man, plagued with flaws upon his character and failure in his reign. We must realize that devotion—not perfection – is the secret of living a life that please God. We need that reminder every day of our lives.”

✓ A Heart of Humility

1 Samuel 17:36-37 (HCSB)

Your servant has killed lions and bears; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.” Then David said, “The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.” Saul said to David, “Go, and may the LORD be with you.”

Abraham Lincoln:

“Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.”

III. The way God **Cultivates** Character

1 Samuel 16:11 (HCSB)

Samuel asked him, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” he answered, “but right now he’s tending the sheep.”

- Privacy
- Captivity
- Anonymity
- Monotony
- Loyalty

Psalm 78:70-72 (NIV)

He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of Israel his inheritance. And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.

God Sees Your Heart  
God Knows Your Heart  
God Values Your Heart  
God Changes Your Heart

Ezekiel 36:26-28 (NLT)

And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey. You will be my people, and I will be your God.