

## 20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning

### Week 16 (April 10-16, 2016)

We read last week that King David was a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). Does that mean that he was flawless? Romans 3:23 answers that question! We will look at the life of David for the next few weeks to see his **weaknesses** as well as his **strengths**. I think you will find **yourself** hidden in the account of this great man.

**Sunday**, April 10 (read 1 Samuel 16:1-7)

*But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)*

God allowed Israel to choose her first king (Saul) based on physical appearance (1 Samuel 10:23-24). The Lord later rejects Saul, because he fails to follow God's plan given through Samuel, the nation's final judge (1 Samuel 15:28-29). In our text today, God sends Samuel to Bethlehem, the town of Jesse from the tribe of Judah (v. 1). God's man is quite reluctant until he is given specific instructions (v. 2-3). Upon arrival, he consecrates Jesse and his sons and invites them to the sacrifice (v. 4-5). Once he sees Jesse's son, Eliab, he thinks, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord" (v. 6b). God rebukes His judge using the famous words from today's printed verse. Remember what we have learned: Satan operates in the realm of sight and sound, but God shows Himself to those who have faith! We will see how this plays out in tomorrow's devotion.

**Monday**, April 11 (read 1 Samuel 16:8-13)

*So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest, " Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." (1 Samuel 16:11a)*

One by one, each of David's seven brothers pass in front of Samuel, but the Lord does not choose any of them. This prompts Samuel to ask the question printed above (v. 8-11a). Jesse responds by saying he has an eighth son, the youngest, but he is tending his flock of sheep. It appears that God loves to choose the underdog (in the eyes of the world), the least likely to be chosen. He also tends to choose those who will be content leading sheep (v. 11). (When I look in a mirror, I am reminded of the fact that all power lies in the hands of the "**Chooser**," and not in the qualifications of the "**Choosee**".) David is handsome and ruddy (v. 12a). God simply says to Samuel, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one" (v. 12b). Don't miss the fact that his brothers are present during this anointing or the fact that the Spirit of the Lord comes upon David in power at this point (v. 13). These facts will come into play later in the story.

**Tuesday**, April 12 (read 1 Samuel 16:14-17)

*Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him. (1 Samuel 16:14)*

God is sovereign over all the earth; therefore, He controls the **evil** spirits as well as the **good** ones (v. 14-15). Those who, like Saul, reject God's truth will be vulnerable to the evil spirits. If this is shocking, you may want to review the devotion from January 22. At any rate, God is going to use this torment from the evil spirit to bring His chosen vessel into the presence of the disobedient king. Saul asks for someone to come to him who is talented in playing a harp (v. 16-17). I'll bet you could never guess that David possesses this qualification. Can you believe that God has everything under His control? If so, what are you worried about?

**Wednesday**, April 13 (read 1 Samuel 16:18-23)

*Whenever the spirit from God came upon Saul, David would take his harp and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him. (1 Samuel 16:23)*

One of Saul's servants is aware of David's talent in playing the harp. He is also aware of his good looks, his ability to speak well, his reputation as a warrior, as well as his relationship with the Lord; therefore, Saul sends messengers to Jesse requesting the services of David (v. 19-20). The king is so pleased with David that he makes the young man one of his armor-bearers. The evil spirit continues to torment Saul, but the soothing effect of David's harp drives the spirit away. As we will see in chapter 17, David is part time with King Saul, because he continues to care for his father's sheep. This will set up the confrontation that is one of the most well-known stories in the Bible.. We will see that in tomorrow's devotion.

**Thursday**, April 14 (read 1 Samuel 17:1-15)

*A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet tall. (1 Samuel 17:4)*

How large are the giants that you are facing today? Certainly they are not as formidable as the one staring at the Israelites in this passage! Goliath stands over nine feet tall and is equipped with full body armor weighing 125 pounds (v. 5-6). The tip of his spear weighs 15 pounds. As if that is not intimidating enough, he has a shield bearer in front of him. Would you volunteer to accept the challenge he issues to the Israelites (v. 8-10)? Even the thought of it terrifies the Jews (v. 11). At this point, David re-enters the story. He is a part time shepherd, a part time harpist and a part time armor bearer (v. 12-15). God's sovereign will is about to bring the young man to the place of his divine calling, as we will see in tomorrow's devotion.

**Friday**, April 15 (read 1 Samuel 17:16-26)

*Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God? (1 Samuel 17:26b)*

In today's text, Jesse sends his youngest son, David, to check on his three oldest sons, who are with Saul at the battlefront. He sends roasted grain, ten loaves of bread and ten cheeses. (I can't help but think that if the giant does not kill them, their cholesterol will!) David provides for his sheep and hurries off in obedience to his father. He arrives just in time to hear Goliath shout his usual defiance to the army of King Saul (v. 20-24). The soldiers are well aware of the rewards awaiting the man who kills this giant (v. 25). In today's society, I might be willing to face that rascal for a permanent tax exemption (just kidding). David, still a young teenager, is appalled at the defiance of Goliath (v. 26). We'll follow the story in the next devotion.

**Saturday**, April 16 (1 Samuel 17:27-31)

*"Now what have I done?" said David. "Can't I even speak?" (1 Samuel 17:29)*

Anyone who is chosen by God must learn to deal with insults, many of which will come from his/her own family (v. 28). Jesus warns that those who follow His teachings will have to choose His Word over the politically correct views of family members (see Matthew 10:34-39). Eliab (thinking that he is better suited for the position) is still upset that the Lord chose his youngest brother to be the next king of Israel (remember 16:7?). David's inquiries are taken directly to King Saul, causing the cowardly king to send for the young shepherd boy (v. 31). We will pick up the rest of this amazing story in next week's devotions.