

October 24, 2021

God Calls David

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Young people's message: Why do you think God chose David to be king?

Many people have wondered about this question for many years. Even David's father and brothers were very confused about God's choice on picking David.

God has His reasons for doing what He does. For those of us left to wonder, some answers can be found in the actual story. We are told that David's older brother Eliab has a bad temper. So that would disqualify from being chosen king. David on the other hand was the smallest, youngest and weakest of his brothers. However he did not lack courage in the face of difficult decisions. David was the one who stepped up to take on Goliath.

The most important clue is making God's decision was what David was doing. David was a shepherd. In this part of the world at this time the shepherd and king were closely linked. People compared a king to a shepherd. The qualities that a shepherd had to lead and tend his flock were the same ones a king needed to govern. Shepherds had to lead their flocks to food and water. The shepherd had to protect the flock from attackers. Shepherds had to be wise, practical and courageous. Many of the qualities that a king needed in this part of the world. God

probably chose David because he had many good shepherd qualities that would help him being a king.

So when Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd, He is also saying I am the Good King. The King who lays down His life for His people. Those who hear the Kings (Jesus) voice follow Him. No one can snatch them away from the King (Jesus).

I hope this sheds some light on why God chose David to be king. Many times the answers to our questions can actually be found in the story of the text. We have moved so far beyond King David. To Jesus our Eternal Saviour. So keep reading and questioning.

Adults message: At the very end of this morning's passage Samuel anoints David the King of the Israelites. The actual anointing or making of the king seems so simple and low key. Samuel just takes a horn of oil and anoints David in the presence of his brothers. The most important part of the story is that the Spirit of the Lord comes mightily upon him. The act of pouring oil on David and the presence of the spirit is what makes David king.

As Christians Jesus is our High King and Messiah. Paul talks about Jesus as our High Priest throughout most of his letter to the Hebrews. "Now this is the main point of the things we are saying. We have a High Priest who sits at the right hand of the Throne of Majesty in the Heavens." Hebrews 8:1. Jesus comes from the line of King David. However Jesus will expand the concept of king to include the idea of messiah. The idea of messiah would also be expanded to just a spiritual figure. Jesus

would also expand the idea of king/messiah to include all those who would come to believe in Him.

When we are baptised we become Christians and we become a part of the Body of Christ. At our baptism we are also anointed with oil. Similar to how David became king. For us when we are anointed with oil we become members of the Royal Priesthood of Believers. The same oil used at our baptism will be used before we leave this world. The oil is a reminder to us that during our earthly life we were members of the Royal Priesthood of Believers.

The idea of a Royal Priesthood of Believers is very biblically rooted. We first read about it in 1Peter 2:5-9. Mind you Peter uses many quotes from the Psalms and the Prophet Isaiah to back up his idea. "You also, as living stones are being built up a spiritual house a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the scriptures, Behold I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect and precious. And he who believes on Him will be by no means put to shame. Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious, but to those who are disobedient. The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. And a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense. The stumble being disobedient to the word to which they were appointed. But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light."

As believers in Christ we are called a Royal Priesthood as a reflection of our privileged status as heirs to the Kingdom of God. As part of this Royal Priesthood of Believers we are called to serve God as the priests

of old did. Our sacrifices are spiritual offerings and not animal sacrifices. We are to offer praise to the One who gave His Son, who took away our sins. We are also encouraged and empowered to spread the gospel and to teach the faith to our children and others. To live the Beatitudes and to fulfill the instructions in the Lord's Prayer. All of this is imparted to us when we are baptised and anointed. Like David there is a lot more going on than just the pouring of oil upon his head. We are called to be leaders also, but that come at our confirmation. God bless and take care and be kind to one another, Pastor D