

1 Samuel 8:19-20 New Living Translation

¹⁹ But the people refused to listen to Samuel's warning. "Even so, **we still want a king.**" they said. ²⁰ "We want to be like the nations around us. Our king will judge us and lead us into battle."

The people went to God saying we want a King NOW like everyone else and Samuel said no! God is our king. But the people insisted that Saul will be their King and he was. Saul represented THE FLESH not the Spirit.

Saul was an insecure king constantly comparing himself yet never measuring up. If you live by the flesh you will never measure up to the spirit. Saul was not a good king because he had huge identity issues.

Napoleon, at the height of his career, is reported to have given this cynical answer to someone who asked if God was on the side of France: ***"God is on the side that has the heaviest artillery."***

Then came the Battle of Waterloo, where Napoleon lost both the battle and his empire. Years later, in exile on the island of St. Helena, humiliated and humbled, Napoleon is reported to have quoted the words of Thomas à Kempis: ***"Man proposes, God disposes."***

TITLE: HOW GOD CHOOSES

- 1. God's Choices are Sovereign**
- 2. God's Choices are Surprising**
- 3. God's Choices are Specific**

Your identity is that you are a child of God. People look on the outside, but God looks at the heart. You may not see what God sees but that doesn't mean it doesn't exist! It just has not been revealed!!!

Dr. Leela Magavi

“I have assessed some teenagers, men, and woman who have discussed the idea of getting plastic surgery to look more like the filtered version of themselves.”

Don't be misled by filtered images on Facebook. People are not always what they appear to be. Saul appeared to be a great King in the beginning but character that is not refined will never be revered or respected.

1. God's Choices are Sovereign

1 Samuel 13:14 New Living Translation

¹⁴ But now your kingdom must end, **for the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart.** The Lord has already appointed him to be the leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command.”

WHY DID HIS KINGDOM END? Read 1 SAM 13:1-13

David is found in 66 Chapters in the Bible and his name mentioned 59x in the New Testament, so there must be something we can learn about him. No one in the Bible was given the title, “A man after God's own heart” other than David. After Jesus, no one was spoken more of in the bible than David. Son of David is the messianic title given to Jesus.

Write this down: God has it all under control and nothing will catch him off guard!!!

First, there are no accidents in life! Everything that occurs is part of a larger plan. God is working, often behind the scenes; in ways that we cannot understand, to accomplish His plans and His purposes, **Rom. 8:28; Isa. 55:8-9; Psa. 37:23; 2 Cor. 4:15-17**

Second, God is well able to bring His plan to pass. He will never propose a plan that He is not able to accomplish! Whether it is a plan to raise up a shepherd boy and make him a king, or whether it is a plan to work out His will in your life; He is well able to see it through, **Eph. 3:20; Job 42:2; Luke 1:37; Gen. 18:14.**

Third, God's sovereign choices extend to every area of life. I do not pretend to understand it all, but I believe the Bible teaches us that God is in

the business of working out all things according to His will, **Eph. 1:11**; and bringing His eternal purposes to pass in time, **Isa. 46:10-11**.

1 Samuel 16:1

Now the Lord said to Samuel, "You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king."

How many of us have mourned over our decisions that we wish God would have approved or ordained? Sometimes God will let us have our own way to teach us to be dependent on him rather than our flesh!!!

I can almost hear him sometimes. "Alright already, here you go, quit nagging me!"

Don't be stuck in your disappointment even if you prophesied something that you thought was the right thing. You have to move on, admit you got it wrong and learn. Grow from your mistakes!

I have an annual membership at Pity Party Canada. But thank God for wives that say, GET OVER IT! It is so easy for me to get down on myself. Stop mourning! Stop crying over spilt milk! Go has a preferred future for us though him, not people.

Grief should never cripple you and cause you to be dysfunctional

1 Samuel 16: 1 NKJV says, Now the Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, **seeing** I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have **provided** Myself a king among his sons."

Seeing and Provided is the same Hebrew word. God has seen fit to provide for you even though you don't see it yet!!

While Samuel has been grieving and mourning over his disappointments, God is behind the scenes, behind the curtain preparing for something and someone new to step on the scene.

Can we please keep our head held high trusting and believing that “Our father who art in Heaven” has it all under control???

He is my Jehovah Jirah! He is my provider!!!

1 Samuel 16:2 ² But Samuel asked, “How can I do that? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me”. “Take a heifer with you,” the Lord replied, “and say that you have come to make a sacrifice to the Lord. ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you which of his sons to anoint for me.”

⁴ So Samuel did as the Lord instructed. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town came trembling to meet him. “What’s wrong?” they asked. “Do you come in peace?”

⁵ “Yes,” Samuel replied. “I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Purify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” Then Samuel performed the purification rite for Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice, too.

⁶ When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, “Surely this is the Lord’s anointed!”

Even the prophets can get it wrong! Samuel was about to make the same mistake twice!!!

⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, “Don’t judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Stop looking at the outward appearance of people.

2.GODS CHOICES ARE SURPRISING:

A. v. 6-10 His Choice Is Surprising In Its Rejections

⁸ Then Jesse told his son Abinadab (My Father is noble) to step forward and walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “This is not the one the Lord has chosen.” ⁹ Next Jesse summoned Shimea, but Samuel said, “Neither is this the one the Lord has chosen.” ¹⁰ In the same way all seven of Jesse’s sons were presented to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.”

God passed by 7 of Jesses sons

- 1.Eliab: strongman , human ability GOD IS NOT LOOKING FOR HUMAN ABILITY
- 2.Abinadab: incite, moral pleasure. GOD IS NOT LOOKING FOR HYPE
- 3.SHAMMAH: “**Astonishment.**” This may refer to his physical size or some other physical trait,
GOD IS NOT LOOKING FOR GOOD LOOKS or PHYSICAL APPEARANCE.
- 4.Nethaneel: to employ, to put on. GOD IS NOT LOOKING FOR A HIRELING
- 5.RADDAI: trampling, subjugate: GOD IS NOT LOOKING FOR A TIGHT-FISTED RULER
- 6.Ozem: to drive. GOD IS NOT LOOKING FOR A PUSHER

11-13 **His Choice Is Surprising In Its Receptions** – ¹¹ Then Samuel asked, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse replied. “But he’s out in the fields watching the sheep and goats. ” Send for him at once,” Samuel said. “We will not sit down to eat until he arrives.” ¹² So Jesse sent for him. He was dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes. And the Lord said, “**This is the one; anoint him.**” ¹³ So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. **And the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David from that day on.** Then Samuel returned to Ramah.

Whoever God Appoints, He Anoints

After the seven sons of Jesse have passed before Samuel and all have been rejected, Samuel finds out that there is another son. He is the youngest and he is said to be with the sheep. He is so insignificant within the family that he is not even summoned with the rest of the boys, but he is left out of the feast and the sacrifice. He is out there doing the job of a humble servant. In fact, when he is mentioned by his father, he is not even called by his name; he is simply called “**the youngest.**”

When he walks in, Samuel sees a handsome, young man; bright-eyed, with a blush in his cheeks. God tells Samuel to anoint this one, for this is him! The one rejected and passed over by the others is the very one picked by the Lord!

No doubt Jesse and his sons were all amazed as they watched the ancient prophet hobble over to young David and pour the anointing oil on his head.

Psalm 78:71-72 New Living Translation

⁷¹ He took David from tending the ewes and lambs and made him the shepherd of Jacob's descendants— God's own people, Israel. ⁷² He cared for them with a true heart and led them with skillful hands.

David means: Beloved, loved one, loving, from the root word "to boil" God is looking for lovers! Bill Johnson said, Intimate lovers make the best warriors.

This is the song that David wrote after he was anointed, after the oil was poured on him.

Psalm 139:14 Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!
Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.

Does anyone know where David went after he was anointed as King?

Right back to the fields tending Sheep! Prophecy sometimes takes time to develop.

God wants every one of us to become a person after His Own heart.

Three thousand years ago, God chose a young unqualified man named David to be the king of Israel. Out of all the sons of Jesse, the favor of God landed on a shepherd boy, David. David was the youngest son of a poor farmer from the tiny hamlet of Bethlehem.

(Note: We must be careful how we assess those around us. We look at people and think we know who God will use and what He will do with them. We never know! God often passes over the ones others would choose and calls those we would never have imagined. God excels in taking nobodies and making somebodies out of them! When God went after a man after His own heart, He did not go to the palaces, the temples or the places of influence, wealth and power.

He didn't look at the stadiums or the gyms. He didn't go to the beauty

pageants or universities. God chose the most unlikely person in the most unlikely of places. The key to being used of Him is possessing the right kind of heart!

(III. In 1809, the world was watching with bated breath as Napoleon conquered the nation of Austria. Cities, villages and hamlets fell into his grip and the world wondered if he could be stopped.

But, while the mad little Emperor was battling his way around Europe, thousands of babies entered into this world as well. But people didn't care for babies; they were too occupied with battles.

Now, nearly two hundred years later, no one but historians can name even one of the battles Napoleon fought in 1809. Now, no one even really cares. But, each of the little babies I named came into this world as a nobody, but each left his mark on the world. And, they continue to make an impact today. You never know what God will do with the unknown people around you this evening!

No one but God would have picked Saul of Tarsus to be the Apostle to the Gentiles. But God did choose him, **1 Tim. 1:12-16**. Who would have thought that Peter would have been used like he was by the Lord, after the way he fell?

3. **GOD'S CHOICES ARE SPECIFIC**

It seems crystal clear that God had a specific plan in mind. He sent Samuel to a specific town, to a specific family in that town and then to the specific person He had chosen for to be the next king. Very briefly, there are some indications as to why God made the choice He did in the life of David.

- A. v. 11-12 **God Chooses Those Who Are Ready** – When Jesse and David's brothers are brought in before Samuel, they are "**sanctified**," v. 5. In other words, their sins are dealt with and they are made ready for worship. When David is brought, there is no time for him to be sanctified, but he is ready nonetheless! David is a picture of that believer who keeps his heart in a state of readiness. He does not know when the Lord might call him, so he stays ready at all times. That is the kind of person God is looking for

today as well. God does not use dirty vessels, but He uses those which are clean and ready for His call.

- B. v. 11 **God Chooses Those Who Are Reliable** – When God calls David, He finds him faithfully doing what he has been told to do. He is keeping the sheep. He is doing a dirty, lonely job; but he does it because it is what he has been assigned to do. After he is anointed, he goes back to his flock, v. 19. Why? Because that is what he does! Even after he is called to Jerusalem to play for King Saul, v. 23, he returned to keep his father's sheep, 17:15. Why? Because that is what he does!

David was given an assignment and he carried it out faithfully. He even placed his life on the line to protect those sheep, 17:34-37. When Jesse looked at David he saw the youngest of his sons. His brothers saw a little brat, 17:28. Samuel saw a cute little boy, 16:12. But, when God looked at David, He saw integrity, faithfulness, responsibility and character. Others saw a nobody, God saw a king!

If you want to be used by the Lord, let me encourage you to be faithful where you are. The best thing you can do is grow where you are planted. Allow God to develop your character, your integrity, your faithfulness and your sense of responsibility in the ordinary, mundane events of life, Matt. 25:21. Be ready and be reliable, for you never know when the call of God will come. He knows where you are. He knows how to find you. He knows how and when to open all the right doors in your life. Just be faithful and walk with Him. In His time, He will use you for His glory.

- C. v. 13 **God Chooses Those Who Are Redeemed** – When Samuel anointed David and perhaps whispered God's plan in his ear; this was not David's first encounter with God. No doubt David had seen the glory of God written in the heavens and His power manifested in the universe, Psa. 19. David had witnessed God's tender care for His people in his own relationship to his flocks. This is evident in Psalm 23 and others which reveal the heart of David while he was still a young shepherd. He might have walked onto the public stage in 1 Samuel 16; but David had been walking with the Lord for quite some time! Listen to David's own testimony in 1 Sam. 17:37; 45.

Here's the point, God calls those who know Him! Those who know Him in a faith relationship; who are ready, reliable and

redeemed and available as candidates to be used by the Lord. Does that describe you ?