

## 1 Samuel 16:14-23

### David's First Royal Assignment

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Whatever God calls us to do, we can be certain that God has already give us all the preparation we need to do the task. We may feel like we are inadequate, and the truth is that without God we are. We must determine to always do our best by the grace of God and for the glory of God.

**I. The \_\_\_\_\_** (1 Samuel 16:14)

- Saul was suffering the consequences of his \_\_\_\_\_. He had rejected the Lord so the Lord had rejected him. (1 Samuel 15:23; Psalms 51:11)
- This evil spirit was the direct result of the Holy Spirit's \_\_\_\_\_ from Saul's life. (James 1:13; Romans 1:21, 28)
- Saul had sown to the flesh repeatedly without remorse or \_\_\_\_\_, and of the flesh he reaped corruption. (Galatians 6:7-8)

**II. The Servants' \_\_\_\_\_** (1 Samuel 16:15-17)

- The servants' suggested solution was to treat the \_\_\_\_\_ instead of solving the problem.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ do not want to be told that many of their problems are the result of their sinful choices. (Hebrews 12:17)
- The music therapy they suggested would work to calm the kings mood, but it could never bring lasting \_\_\_\_\_ to his heart. (Romans 5:1-2; Philippians 4:6-7)

**III. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesse** (1 Samuel 16:18-20)

- David was a \_\_\_\_\_ harp player. (Ecclesiastes 9:10)
- David was a \_\_\_\_\_ man too. (1 Corinthians 9:27)
- David was also a \_\_\_\_\_ man. (2 Timothy 2:3-4)
- David was a \_\_\_\_\_ guy. (1 Peter 3:15)
- David was \_\_\_\_\_ looking. He knew how to behave so that his demeanor was not a distraction from his duties. (1 Timothy 3:14-15)
- Most important of all, David was \_\_\_\_\_ minded. (1 Samuel 17:37)
- Whatever God calls you to do, He will \_\_\_\_\_ you to do it. (1 Thess. 5:24)

**IV. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the King** (1 Samuel 16:21-23)

- David did not \_\_\_\_\_ or manipulate to gain these honors. They were given him by God. (Psalms 75:6-7)
- David did his job and he did it \_\_\_\_\_, not for his sake or Saul's, but for the Lord. (Colossians 3:22)
- It was his skill in \_\_\_\_\_ that God used to open doors for David that may never have been opened for him otherwise.

### Conclusion

Whatever God has called you to do, He has already equipped you to do it. He has given you the training and experience you need to do the task you need to do right now. But that also means that whatever God is doing in your life currently is preparation for the future. We prepare for tomorrow by doing our best today. Whatever we do, let us do it with all our \_\_\_\_\_ for the glory of God.

# PBC PRAYER POINTS

## Shut-ins

Elsie Banks | Jane Haynes

## Ongoing Health Needs

Connie Bladine | Pat Hill

Eula Keener | Marvin

Ragsdale | Brian Thompson

Ann Whitley | Sophia Rambo

Elaine Milam | Betsy

Grenevitch | Aaron McIntyre

## Unsaved

Corey | B. B. | R.V. | Chris

## Church Ministries

Sunday School | Children's

Church | Frontline Children's

Program | Teen Ministry |

Outreach Programs | Music

Ministry | Regular Services

## Church Staff

The Chambers | The Riffels

## Deacons

David Almand | David

Bachman | Dean McAvoy

Austin Jones | Drew McIntyre

## National Officials

President Joe Biden

Vice President Kamala Harris

Senators Ossoff & Warnock

Representative Jody Hice

## Supreme Court Justices:

Ketanji Jackson | Neil

Gorsuch | Clarence Thomas

Sonia Sotomayer | Elena

Kagan | Amy Coney

Barrett | Brett Kavanaugh

Stephen Breyer | John

Roberts

## State/Local Officials

Governor Brian Kemp

Lt. Governor Burt Jones

State House Rep. Tim

Fleming | State Senator Brian

Strickland | Rutledge Mayor

Bruce Altnauer

## Missionary Updates

### *John Ridings - Mexico*

Praises:

- Bro. Ridings praises the Lord for 59 years in ministry, 52 of them in missions.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for protection for their building as gang activity has increased around the church
- Pray for John's health and his son-in-law's health.
- Pray for safety as he travels across the border frequently.

### *Thomas & Beth Gates - Michigan*

Praises

- Their annual Fall Festival was attended by hundreds. Thousands of invitations were given out, Bibles were distributed, and the gospel was preached on four occasions.
- Praise the Lord for the salvation of Hussein and his wife and their desire to follow the Lord in baptism.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the salvation of two ladies they are witnessing to consistently.
- Pray for the outreach at Henry Ford College. The students seem to be more responsive and less argumentative.
- Pray for their next "Christ Is" conference in October.

### *Tabernacle Baptist Children's Home*

Praises:

- Some of their new security measures are in place. New doors and a camera system have been installed and two security officers have been hired.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for God to meet the need for the ongoing cost of their enhanced security measures.
- Pray for Jacie, Jaymee, Journee, and Heatherleigh, sisters who have been a part of the home for four years.

## Recent Requests

- PRAISE THE LORD THAT AARON MCINTYRE IS HOME!
- Calvin B. is still in the hospital from the car accident. He has recently had kidney trouble and has now had to have both legs amputated.
- Jacob L.'s MRI showed no mass or abnormalities on his brain. The doctors are have increased his medication again to control his seizures. They are still awaiting the results from genetic testing. Their next appointment is in March.
- Daniel L. might have a torn meniscus. He will be getting an MRI to assess the damage and determine treatment.

## 1 Samuel 16:14-23

### David's First Royal Assignment

Not long after he was anointed by Samuel to be the next king of Israel, David received his first royal assignment. The circumstances, however, were not easy. He would live in the company of a crazed monarch night and day and would be responsible to calm him in his fits of rage. It was a huge responsibility for such a young man, but it was a task that God had already prepared him for and that David was more than capable of accomplishing by the grace of God.

Whatever God calls us to do, we can be certain that God has already given us all the preparation we need to do the task. We may feel like we are inadequate, and the truth is that without God we are. We must determine to always do our best by the grace of God and for the glory of God. That was David's determination and God blessed him for it.

#### I. The Situation

*1 Samuel 16:14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.*

1 Samuel 16:13 tells us that when David was anointed by Samuel, "the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward." In the very next verse we learn that "the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul." There is an important contrast here: David gained what Saul lost. An important question to answer is, "Why did the Spirit of the Lord leave Saul?" The simple answer is that **Saul was suffering the consequences of his sin. He had rejected the Lord so the Lord had rejected him.**

*1 Samuel 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*

The evidence of that rejection was the departure of the Holy Spirit from Saul. In the Old Testament, the ministry of the Holy Spirit was different than in the New Testament. Now, the Holy Spirit indwells believers at the moment of salvation never to leave them. But then, the Holy Ghost came and went upon certain people at certain times. Witnessing the effects of the loss of the Spirit must have made quite an impression on David. Many years later, he would write this in his own psalm of confession:

*Psalms 51:11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.*

In place of the Holy Spirit Saul had "an evil spirit from the Lord." This spirit was characterized by anger, rage, and a total lack of peace in Saul's life. It would manifest itself in murderous ways, as it did when he would later try to kill David with a javelin on multiple occasions. But how do we reconcile this passage with James 1:13 which says, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man"?

We can say conclusively from scripture that God did not make Saul think sinful thoughts, nor was this spirit a demonic spirit. It was what we might call an attitude or an inclination. Further, **this evil spirit was the direct result of the Holy Spirit's absence from Saul's life.** The restraint of the Spirit had been removed, and in its place came the unbridled inclination of Saul to rebel. This is a classic example of God giving someone over to a reprobate mind like Paul spoke of in Romans 1.

*Romans 1:21, 28 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. [28] And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*

If a person persists in thinking and acting sinfully, God reserves the right to remove any restraints and let them feel the full force of the consequences of their sin. God can "give them over" to the path that they have chosen. God did it to Pharaoh. God did it to Judas. And this is

what happened to Saul. The evil spirit is “from the Lord” in the sense that God, in His sovereign providence, is allowing Saul to reap all that he had sown. **He had sown to the flesh repeatedly without remorse or repentance, and of the flesh he reaped corruption.** (Galatians 6:7-8)

## II. The Servants’ Suggestion

*1 Samuel 16:15-17 And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee. [16] Let our lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on an harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well. [17] And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring him to me.*

Serving in king Saul’s court must have been stressful, to say the least. Saul’s fits would have disturbed the entire palace, making life miserable for all around him. Our sins do not only affect us. They affect everyone whose lives we touch in any way. The servants saw what was happening to Saul and they knew at least some of the backstory. They understood to some degree that the problem with king Saul was a spiritual problem. They said, “an evil spirit from God troubleth thee.” However, **their suggested solution was to treat the symptoms instead of solving the problem.**

They suggested that Saul find a musician who could come and play soothing music when his fits would come on him. They rightly reasoned that this would help alleviate the symptoms of Saul’s condition. It would have been far better for them to have suggested that the king repent and get right with God. That would have been lasting fix, but it is almost certain that Saul would not have listened

**The ungodly do not want to be told that many of their problems are the result of their sinful choices and that if they would make right choices, life would be better.** They want a bandaid to cover the wounds and an anesthetic to dull the pain. They want to treat the symptoms, but they don’t want to solve the problem. They are like Esau who begged his father for a blessing, but refused to repent so that blessing might come.

*Hebrews 12:17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.*

**The music therapy they suggested would work to calm the king’s mood, but it could never bring lasting peace to his heart.** That peace can only come from God when we are saved and in right fellowship with Him.

*Romans 5:1-2 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: [2] By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

*Philippians 4:6-7 Be careful for nothing: but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. [7] And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

Saul had forfeited God’s peace with his repeated rebellion. As we seek to help others, we must remember that peace with God is the only permanent solution to life’s problems.

## III. The Son of Jesse

*1 Samuel 16:18-20 Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him. [19] Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep. [20] And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul.*

One of the servants present for this conversation immediately thought of David, the son of Jesse. This was no coincidence; it was God’s providence. From the servants remarks we learn that

David already had quite a reputation. Notice the qualifications that were given of David by this servant of Saul.

**First, he was a skilled harp player.** Talent isn't everything, but whatever you do, you should do your absolute best at it. If you are going to serve the King, you should work your hardest and do your best.

*Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.*

**He was a strong man too.** He had already distinguished himself as a mighty man of valor, even though he was still a relatively young man. Perhaps his exploits with the bear and the lion had already occurred and were known. David was not a sissy. We need more young men like David who have brain and brawn. There is nothing godly about physical weakness because of slothfulness and lack of discipline.

*1 Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*

**He was also a soldierly man.** It is also possible that he had had to defend his flock from raiders and robbers and had a reputation of being a tough man to beat and the kind of guy you would want to take into battle. This would prove to be one of his most important characteristics for much of his life. He knew how to fight. God is not going to call us to attack the Philistines, but we have been called to fight the good fight of faith.

*2 Timothy 2:3-4 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. [4] No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

**David was a smart guy too.** He was "prudent in matters." He knew how to take care of business, how to practice good discretion, and was the kind of guy you could rely on to get things done. Not everyone is blessed with the same level of natural intellect, but everyone should do the best with the faculties that God has given them. We should study and learn as best we can, especially when it comes to God and His Word.

*1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

**He was sharp looking.** A comely person not only speaks of his appearance but also his demeanor and how he carried himself. **He knew how to behave so that his demeanor was not a distraction from his duties.**

*1 Timothy 3:14-15 These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: [15] But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

**Most important of all, he was spiritually minded.** The Holy Spirit came upon David when Samuel anointed him and it was evident to those around him that God was working in David's life. People saw David's life and concluded "the Lord is with him." David was careful to make sure that people know that anything good in his life was God's doing.

*1 Samuel 17:37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.*

Who could argue against a resume like that? David was the perfect man for the job. But more importantly, God was working in this to give David his first lessons in running a kingdom. They immediately sent word to Jesse and called for David. Jesse loaded him with provisions and gifts and

sent him on to the king. David would get a front row seat in the classroom of royal governing, paid for by the king whom he would replace. **Whatever God calls you to do, He will enable you to do it.**

*1 Thessalonians 5:24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*

#### **IV. The Service of the King**

*1 Samuel 16:21-23 And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer. [22] And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight. [23] And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.*

David made an immediate positive impression on king Saul as seen by his instant promotion. To be chosen to play in the king's court was a promotion in and of itself, but then he was chosen to be the king's armor bearer, a place of honor and prestige. Saul also sent word to Jesse and requested that David stay with him until further notice. **David did not scheme or manipulate to gain these honors. They were given him by God.**

*Psalms 75:6-7 For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. [7] But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.*

That God was working in David's life is also seen in his playing of the harp. The primary task that he was appointed to was to play his harp when the king's fits came on him, and he did that job successfully. He would play and the music he played was soothing and refreshing to Saul. **He did his job and he did it well, not for his sake or Saul's, but for the Lord.**

*Colossians 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:*

Music is a powerful influencer on our mood. Every Hollywood director understands the power of music and they work closely with the composers of the movie soundtracks to make sure the music matched the mood of the scenes.

Secular musicians understand the power of music to influence. Secular musicians use the styles of music they do to create feelings and moods that match the message of their songs, which, more often than not, are not godly messages.

The only people who seem to deny the power of music to influence are Christians who want to listen to the ungodly music. To deny the affect that music can have is foolishness. The questions we must ask are, "What kind of effect is my music having on me? Is it spiritually refreshing or does it appeal to my flesh and my feelings? Is it spiritual or sensual?"

David played good music that refreshed Saul's soul. David's career as a musician would continue throughout his life. The book of Psalms is filled with songs that he wrote. **And it was his skill in music that God used to open doors for David that may never have been opened for him otherwise.**

#### **Conclusion**

Whatever God has called you to do, He has already equipped you to do it. He has given you the training and experience you need to do the task you need to do right now. But that also means that whatever God is doing in your life currently is preparation for the future. We prepare for tomorrow by doing our best today. David was like Jesus because he did not do anything half-heartedly. He gave his full focus and energy to whatever task was at hand. **Whatever we do, let us do it with all our might for the glory of God.**

*1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*