

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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David: A Man after God's Own Heart - Introduction

Out of all of the characters scripture there is one man that all men, by way of common experiences can relate to. There is *some aspect* of the life of David that *every* man probably has experienced himself.

David, an ordinary shepherd, was chosen by God to be king of Israel. Saul, the current king, had disobeyed God. Therefore, even before Saul died---which was the usual way a king was replaced---God directed the prophet Samuel to anoint David as the new king.

David was a gifted king. But he was not a perfect man. He lied, committed adultery, and murdered. He was responsible for the suffering of many people. Still, God used him in incredible ways, and the Scriptures ensure he'll always be remembered as a "*man after God's own heart.*"

Read Acts 13:22

What do you think it means to be "a man after God's own heart"?

Read 1 Samuel 16

Big Picture

Because the first king of Israel, Saul had displeased God so greatly, David was chosen by God to replace him. God directed his prophet, Samuel, to anoint David king even though the shepherd boy's appearance and stature were not kingly looking. Saul became emotionally unbalanced. David was called to the palace to play his harp to calm him. Saul, not knowing of David's anointing, delighted in David and assigned him as the king's own armor bearer. God sent a message to Saul through the prophet Samuel. "*You acted foolishly,*" Samuel said. "*You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed a leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command'* (1 Samuel 13:13-4).

Read 1 Samuel 16:7-12

What do you think it means when the bible says that, "*The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart*"?

Remember this

The prophet Samuel was sent to David's family home to pick out the next king. He looked at each of David's impressive brothers, but God said, "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."* (1Samuel 16:7). It turned out that David was *"ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features"* (1Samuel 16:12), but appearances didn't interest God. He looked into David's heart.

Points to Ponder

David, the youngest son in the family of Jesse, trained in solitude to be king. While tending sheep in the isolated plains and mountains, this musician, songwriter, and godly man developed a heart for God. His psalms of praise scattered throughout the book of Psalms reflect a man who longed for God. It was his songwriting and musical skills that brought him to the place as Saul's harpist.

David's isolation was used to build his spiritual life. Although corporate worship in our church is great and fellowship with other Christians is encouraging, time alone with God is essential. It's in the times of being still and focusing on Him that our hearts get to know Him best.

Read Psalm 46:10

How much time alone do you *really* do you really spend with God?