

1 SAMUEL 16:1–13, “ROLL CALL OF FAITH: DAVID”

¹The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ²And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” ³And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵And he said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is before him.” ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen these.” ¹¹Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.” ¹²And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

Discussion Questions: (Choose a manageable number to discuss)

1. What kind of national leader did Israel want? (See 1 Samuel 8:19–20.)
2. Why did God initially let them have a king who fit the criteria they had chosen? (See 1 Samuel 8:6–7, 21–22.)
3. How did Saul fit the profile the people had for their leader? (See 1 Samuel 8:22; 9:2.) How did the reign of Saul turn out? (See 1 Samuel 13:14; 15:24–26.)
4. Pastor Jay Thomas called God’s expectation of a national leader a shepherd-king. How was he to be different from the kings of other nations? (See Deuteronomy 17:15, 18–20.)
5. What was the LORD’s explanation to Samuel (v. 7 of today’s passage, above) of why Jesse’s eldest son, Eliab, did not fit his requirements?
6. What are some tip-offs as to whether a person relies on personal strengths or operates on the basis of a deep, inner faith?
 - a.) What is the orientation of one who measures up to God’s criteria?
 - b.) In what is his or her trust placed?
 - c.) In what time-frame does he or she operate?
7. What do you think caused the LORD to inform Samuel (v. 12) “This is the one”?
 - a.) How would tending sheep have provided good preparation?
 - b.) What do the Psalms of David reveal about his heart?
 - c.) What do David’s glaring lapses tell us about even the truest heart among humans?
8. Pastor Thomas asserted that if I allow God’s vision to reign in my life, it will kill anxiety. Why is this so?
9. To what extent do we expect God to work *in* our lives for our own benefit, as opposed to *through* our lives for the benefit of others and to accomplish his eternal purposes?