

## The David Series: Week 1 Devotions

In week 1 of the David Series we explored how David's destiny was shaped from his earliest days. 1 Samuel 16 shows how David was anointed as king in his youth and only many years later was his destiny fulfilled – but all along God was preparing him for his destiny. The devotions for this week will help us think more deeply about David's life and about the destiny that God has prepared for us. Remember we learnt that destiny is a specific task that God has placed us on earth to accomplish and that God prepares us by working through our heart, gifts and work!

### Day 1: Destiny Opening: King Of Israel

#### READ:

*The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.' But Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.' The Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.' Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, 'Do you come in peace?' Samuel replied, 'Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.' Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. (1 Samuel 16:1-5)*

#### REFLECT:

- (1) Why did Israel need a new king?
- (2) Who was the old king and what was he like? (See chapter 15)
- (3) What risks did Samuel the prophet take by looking for a new king?

#### APPLY:

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you were disappointed with yourself? God does not easily get frustrated with people who disappoint Him but King Saul was really not living up to God's expectations. Spend some time reflecting on how Samuel fully trusted God to guide him and to protect him. What would your life be like if you knew that God would be faithful to fulfill his promises to you?

#### PRAY:

Ask God to help you to trust him no matter how difficult a situation may appear!

### Day 2: Destiny Interview: The Possible People

#### READ:

*When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, 'The Lord has not chosen this one either.' Jesse then made Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, 'Nor has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' (1 Samuel 16:6-10)*

#### REFLECT:

- (1) How did God have to change Samuel's selection process for the new king?
- (2) How does God view people that He uses?
- (3) How do you think Samuel felt when it did not look like Jesse had a son who could be king?

#### APPLY:

Do you ever find yourself judging people by what they are like on the outside rather than on what really matters, what is inside? If people knew what you were really like on the inside, would they still want to hang out with you?

#### PRAY:

Ask God to help you become the kind of person who is not just outwardly impressive but who has the right heart.

### Day 3: Destiny Requirement: The Right Heart

#### READ:

1 Samuel 16:11-13 - *So he asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' 'There is still the youngest,' Jesse answered. 'He is tending the sheep.' Samuel said, 'Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.' So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; this is the one.' So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.*

#### REFLECT:

- (1) Why do you think David did not look like the future king of Israel?
- (2) What clues are there in these verses that David was the right person for the job?
- (3) What happens in the last verse of the reading that prepared David for the coming years?

#### APPLY:

God has a destiny for you to fulfill so he is looking for you to become the kind of person that he can use. Like David, who was just a humble shepherd boy, don't think that God can't use you!!! In fact, God loves to use ordinary people to accomplish supernatural tasks!

#### PRAY:

Ask God to prepare you to be ready for the destiny that he has for your life and to fill you with his Spirit!

### Day 4: Destiny Tools: Using Your Talents

#### READ:

*Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him. Saul's attendants said to him, 'See, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you. Let our lord command his servants here to search for someone who can play the harp. He will play when the evil spirit from God comes on you, and you will feel better.' So Saul said to his attendants, 'Find someone who plays well and bring him to me.' One of the servants answered, 'I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the harp. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the Lord is with him.' Then Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, 'Send me your son David, who is with the sheep.' So Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them with his son David to Saul. David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much, and David became one of his armour-bearers. Then Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, 'Allow David to remain in my service, for I am pleased with him.' Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would take up his harp and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him. (1 Samuel 16:14-23)*

#### REFLECT:

- (1) Who did God use to move David towards his destiny?
- (2) What talents did David have that moved him towards his destiny?
- (3) How do you think this story moved David towards his destiny?

#### APPLY:

God is going to use people in your life to move you closer towards living the destiny that he has prepared for you. Work on your talents so people will be able to recognise something valuable in you and God will promote you into a significant position of influence.

#### PRAY:

Ask God to help you develop talents that will be used to move you into your destiny and ask him to make the connection that are needed to position you for your future.

### Day 5: Destiny Calling: Receiving The Anointing

#### READ:

Today we are going to read a devotion from Jim Laffoon who is a prophet in the Every Nation movement – it is a bit longer than our normal devotions but it will be really worth taking the time to read it through: *When they arrived,*

*Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "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." Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these." So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah. (1 Samuel 16:6-13)*

#### **REFLECT:**

As the young teenage boy looked out on the flock of sheep he was tending, his heart was filled with pain. Once again, they had rejected him. The great prophet, Samuel, was coming to their home, and he was the only family member not invited. "Why do they hate me so much?" he whispered to himself. "Am I really that different? It's not my fault that I had a different mother from the rest of them." Yes, pain was nothing new to this young man. After drying his tears, he picked up his harp and began to worship. It was music like no one had heard before; it was different because it touched both the heart of God and man. As David played, the familiar presence of God began to wash over his being. Words he had never heard before began to flow out of his mouth and he lost himself in the love of the God who had never rejected him. His ecstasy was interrupted by the cries of one of the household servants. "David!" the servant yelled, "Come quickly! The prophet is waiting for you! He has told your father he will not leave until he meets you." "Why does he want me?" David asked breathlessly. As he ran toward home, the servant who was now watching his sheep yelled one last thing: "None of your brothers has been chosen." Meanwhile, Samuel was waiting anxiously for David's arrival. Much to his amazement, none of Jesse's tall, powerfully built sons had been God's chosen. Samuel had heard strange things about this young boy David; could he really be the one? God had told Samuel repeatedly, "I only look at the heart." When the breathless teenager finally appeared before him, Samuel was struck with a sense of God's presence he had not felt for months. He knew in a moment he was looking at the hope of his nation, for this young man was God's chosen one. Samuel could barely talk as he asked young David to kneel before him. David's smug, conceited brothers, on the other hand, were furious; had this young idiot stolen their rightful position? When the anointing oil began to cover David, everything changed. It was as if his whole body had been ignited with heaven's glory. With the presence of God radiating from his being, the Spirit of the Lord came on David in power.

#### **APPLY:**

What lessons can be learned from David's anointing? (1) First of all, no matter how much your soul has been marred by pain, the Lord is well able to bring you into your divine destiny. That's right; even if your family life has been torn apart by conflict, God can use even that hurt to prepare you for your divine purpose. (2) Second, even though David was so despised by his own family that he was not invited home for Samuel's visit, God was still able to find him. No matter what type of obscurity you may be living in today, God is able to find you and bring you into your calling when the time is right. (3) Third, Samuel would not leave David's home or even sit down and eat with the family until he had met with David. It is no different with God Himself; no matter how rejected you feel, He is waiting on you today. No matter what those who have hurt you say about you, in the end it is His opinion that matters. (4) Fourth, Jesse's other sons were naturally far more qualified than David to be king. The oldest sons were already trained warriors who had proven themselves after. God however, sees far beyond a person's physical appearance, talents, education, and skills. He looks into the depths of the heart and makes His decision on what He sees there. Do you see it now? Today, God is not simply looking at your family background, appearance, educational accomplishments, or net worth; He is looking into your soul. He is looking to see if your will is submitted to Him and if your emotions belong to Him. In the end, you see, it is these things which will determine your destiny.

#### **PRAY:**

Ask God to give you the heart of David as you walk with Him in this critical hour.

### **Day 6: Destiny Singing: Playing The Music**

#### **READ:**

Once again today we are going to read a devotion from Jim Laffoon who is a prophet in the Every Nation movement – it is a bit longer than our normal devotions but it will be really worth taking the time to read it through: *Now the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him. Saul's attendants said to him,*

*"See, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you. Let our lord command his servants here to search for someone who can play the harp. He will play when the evil spirit from God comes upon you, and you will feel better." So Saul said to his attendants, "Find someone who plays well and bring him to me." Whenever the spirit from God came upon Saul, David would take his harp and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him. (1 Samuel 16:14-23)*

**REFLECT:**

Saul had been tormented by the devil since the day he had rebelled against God's command to totally destroy the Amalekites. At times, the depression, despair, and anger he felt threatened to crush his very soul to death. By this time, Saul's servants and friends were frantic; they had exhausted every avenue to stop his madness. At times, his rage grew so great they even feared for their lives. Finally, Saul, in a rare moment of inspiration, called out to his attendants, "Find me someone who is skilled on the harp." One of the servants submitted David's name as a candidate. He said David was a brave warrior who was also very skilled on the harp. He also said the presence of the Lord was with him. When David walked in to the court of King Saul for the first time, he was almost overwhelmed by the darkness and despair radiating from Saul's countenance. He had faced and defeated both a lion and a bear, but this was even worse. David knew immediately there was no human hope for the spiritual sickness which was destroying the king's soul. After bowing before the king, David began to strum his harp. As the songs of God's protection, power, and might began to flow out of his lips, the very atmosphere of the room was changed. It was as if everyone in the room had been supernaturally transported into the presence of God - without going to the tabernacle at Shiloh. Saul's court was amazed. As David played, Saul's whole appearance changed. The despair left him, and after months of depression, the king was smiling again.

**APPLY:**

This story demonstrates the spiritual power of music more than any other story in all of Scripture. If one young man on a harp could lift the demonic depression of a rebellious king, how much more can worship and praise do for you? Having a beautiful singing voice is not even an issue. If you will learn to become a worshipper, God will bring you into new levels of joy, power, and delight. Whether you are listening to Christian music, praising at church, or worshipping in the privacy of your own home, God can use worship to touch the very depths of your soul. In my own life, I have found that both worshipping God and worship music have played a critical role in my spiritual development. The more I come under the attack of the enemy, the more I worship and praise the God who is well able to deliver me. When I am driving in my car, I flood it with Christian music of every style known to man. I learned long ago that the music I listen to plays a critical role in determining the spiritual state of my soul.

**PRAY:**

Ask God to fill your heart with a new commitment to praise Him as you reflect on this story today.

## **Day 7: Destiny Training: Preparing Your Heart**

**READ:**

*The Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'* (1 Samuel 16:7)

**REFLECT:**

As you reflect on this week and the devotions you have been doing stop and think about all that you have learnt about preparing for your destiny. What has God taught you about destiny this week? Go back and review the daily devotions if you need to be reminded of all that you have learnt.

**APPLY:**

Today's verse is at the heart of this chapter and focuses on the most important aspect of us being prepared for our destiny: What is the state of your heart today? How is your heart turned towards God? What do you need God to do to soften, purify or strength your heart?

**PRAY:**

Ask God to create in you a clean heart that hungers after righteousness, truth and justice.