

# LESSON 5

## GOD ANNOINTS DAVID

(READ 1 SAMUEL 16-19)



### Introduction

We wonder if God's rebuke in 1 Samuel 13:13–14 affected Saul. It does not appear so. Not even when God pointedly told him that Saul was not “a man after His own heart.” Saul's sacrifice proved it. If Saul was not “a man after [God's] own heart,” who was? The only other time this phrase is used is in reference to David. In the New Testament, Paul says that David was “a man after [God's] own heart” (Acts 13:22). David was the only man to receive this accolade from God.

In Saul's disobedience we see the climax of his reign. For seven days, Saul had waited for Samuel to pray and offer sacrifices at Gilgal. As his troops dwindled, so did Saul's patience. This was Saul's defining moment. What would he do? He offered sacrifices on his own. Instead of gathering his troops around him and saying, “We must trust in the Lord and wait for Samuel to arrive,” he said, “Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings” (1 Samuel 13:9). Then when caught in sin, Saul said, “So what?” God had established Levitical priests to offer Him sacrifices (Leviticus 8). Saul's actions were of self-piety, not of faith. His sacrifices without prayer show contempt for God.

A heart turned toward God willingly waits on Him. In prayer, a heart turned toward God prays, “Lord, Your will be done. Grant me the wisdom to accept Your will.”

### Setting the Stage

So far in our study, we have seen two defining moments. First, there was Israel's defining moment. After God delivered Israel from the Philistines, the people still demanded a king—rejecting God in the process. In her defining moment, Israel wanted kings just like those of the nations around her. Now comes Saul. His defining moment arrives with a choice to wait for God and His Word through Samuel or take matters into his own hands and offer an unfaithful sacrifice. Certainly, neither example points us to a nation or a man after God's own heart. God must look elsewhere.

- 58.** Saul was not a man after God's own heart. Why did God not give up His search for such a man?
- 59.** God did not expect perfection from Saul, only faith. How does this statement encourage you?



### **David Anointed**

Read 1 Samuel 16. God had plans for David. This young man would one day be a man after God's heart (see Acts 13:22). First, though, God would train David through a series of events.

60. The stature of Jesse's sons impressed Samuel, but God looks at more than mere outward appearances. What did God look for before anointing David (16 :7)?
61. God's Spirit dwelt in David and no longer dwelt in Saul. David soon began working in Saul's household. What chores did Saul give David to do (16:21, 23)?

### **David and Goliath**

Read 1 Samuel 17. Perhaps the most familiar story in David's life unfolds before us here. You may know this story well. At six cubits and a span, Goliath stood approximately nine feet, nine inches tall—an imposing figure even by today's standards. Think how his shouts must have echoed through the valley. All Israel cowered in fear. Fear strikes when we rely on our own strength. However, David relied on God's strength.

62. What did God wish to achieve through David's victory over Goliath? If you need help with your answer, read 2 Peter 3:9.

### **Saul's Jealousy**

Read 1 Samuel 18. David's victory brought immediate friendship with Saul's son Jonathan. David's further success brought military promotions. As David's success grew, so did Saul's jealousy toward David.

63. What incident triggered the beginning of Saul's jealousy and the end of his relationship with David?
64. Two attempts to kill David failed. How did Saul try to kill David? What thwarted these attempts?

### **Another Murder Attempt**

Read 1 Samuel 19. When Saul's scheme to kill David by sending him off to war failed, Saul recruited his servants, and even tried to recruit Jonathan, for a new murder plot.

65. With his kingdom lost if David became king, Jonathan gave up his claim to the throne for his friendship with David. How did Jonathan seek to reconcile Saul and David?
66. War broke out again. Instead of rejoicing that God had provided soldiers like David, Saul exploded in a jealous rage. David fled to his wife, Michal, then to Samuel. What happened to Saul and his men when they followed David?



### **God's Word for Today**

Jealousy is vicious—it robs us of a right relationship with God and with others. Saul saw in David everything he was not—including faithfulness to God—and seethed.

67. Paul lists jealousy among the “works of the flesh” (Galatians 5:19–21). What consequences come with jealousy or any other “works of the flesh” (sins)?
68. God gives “the fruit of the Spirit” to believers for Christ’s sake (Galatians 5:22–24). What is this fruit?
69. How do you feel just knowing that God provides “fruit” and that believers are raised to a new life in Christ (Galatians 5:25–26)?

### **In Closing**

- Think about this quote: “Envy slays itself by its own arrows” (author unknown).
- Plan ways you might help someone through times of jealousy. Is this someone you?
- Read **1 Samuel 20–24** to prepare for the next session.

Pray: Lord of hosts, guide me with Your grace that I may wait on Your will and never fall prey to jealousy. Help me to become someone after Your own heart, forgiving others as You have forgiven me for Your Son’s sake. Amen.