

The Person that God is Looking For

1 Samuel 16

Introduction:

1. God is looking for men and women that He can use here, on earth. God is committed to working through people, people like you and me. Paul challenged believers to be “*meet [fit] for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.*” 2 Timothy 2:21
2. God is looking for people that are useable. What a privilege to have the God of this universe use us in His work here on earth.
3. King Saul of Israel was not useable. He had rebelled against the Word of the Lord, and God basically said to him, “Saul, I simply can't use you to be king over my people any longer.”
4. God now had to choose a new king for His people. Who would be God's choice? The strongest man in Israel, the most famous man, the most popular man, or the wealthiest man?
5. No! It might shock you to know that God chose a shepherd boy—a lowly, little-known shepherd boy, tending sheep out in the field. His name was David.
6. David had seven older brothers who were raised in the same home. Why didn't God choose one of them? Why did God choose this shepherd boy, David, for this special task? What did God see in David?
7. When God is choosing a person to use for His service, what does God look for in a person? Let's look into 1 Samuel 16 and find the answer.

First, God looks for a person with a clean heart. vs. 5-7

1. How many of you can see my heart right now? Can you see what I'm thinking, how much I love God, how much I love God's Word? Can you see into my heart to see if I am sincere in what I am preaching right now? Of course, you cannot!
2. But Who **does** know the answer to all of those questions? God does! Is that a scary thought, to know that God can read your heart right now as you sit there?
3. God revealed to Samuel that the new king would be one of Jesse's sons. Jesse had eight sons. (Ladies, how would you like eight sons? That's a lot of dirty socks!) vs. 1
4. So, Samuel called for a sacrifice unto the Lord and invited Jesse and his sons. God told Samuel He would reveal to him which son would be the next king.
5. At the sacrifice, Samuel looked at Jesse's sons and made a big mistake. He evaluated the sons by their physical gifts, abilities, and outward appearance. vs. 5-6
6. But notice God's response in verse 7. God said, “Samuel, you notice all these outward characteristics, but I notice the heart.” God can read our hearts like a book. 1 Kings 8:39
7. More than God is looking for our outward appearance to be perfect and slick, He simply wants to see a heart that is tender towards Him. If our heart is right, it will work its way to our outward actions and appearance. God knows this. Luke 6:45

8. Many people think they are okay because they've cleaned up the outside, but their inner heart is dirty and vile. God can't use those people. Matthew 23:23-28
9. When God is looking for a person to use, He looks for a person with a clean heart. David's outward appearance may not have been as powerful as his older brothers, but he was a man after God's own heart! God said, "He's the one!!"
 - A clean heart begins with trusting Christ. **Colossians 1:14**

Second, God looks for a person with a faithful heart. vs. 8-11, 19-23

1. When they marched Jesse's boys before Samuel, David wasn't there. Where was he (vs. 10-11)? He was out in the field keeping the sheep.
2. Instead of insisting on going to meet with the mightiest prophet in Israel, David stayed in the field and tended the stinky, filthy sheep while his brothers went to meet Samuel.
3. Clearly, Samuel invited all of Jesse's sons to this sacrifice, but it appears that David declined because he knew somebody had to watch out for the sheep. "You guys go ahead, I'll stay with the sheep." What a faithful, servant's heart.
 - David was faithful over a few sheep, and God chose him to be king over an entire nation! That boy who chose to stay back in the field and do his job would be the next king!
4. God is not looking for people who are **flashy**; God is looking for people who are **faithful**. 1 Corinthians 4:2
5. Later on in the chapter, after Samuel had already anointed David as new king, King Saul had an evil spirit that troubled him. So, he asked David to come and play his harp so it would soothe him. Where was David? He was still with the sheep. vs. 19
 - David would come and faithfully help King Saul every time Saul needed him. vs. 21-23
 - The Bible says, "*A faithful man, who can find?*" David was faithful, and Saul loved him and made David his armour-bearer.
6. In God's service, there are **show** horses and **work** horses. Some people make a big splash for a season, but they can't stick with anything for very long. Others are work horses. They are faithful, and you can count on them through thick and thin.
7. This is the kind of person that God is looking for—a person with a faithful heart. Matthew 25:21
8. Many times, we put people in positions hoping that the position will **make** them faithful. God doesn't do this. He finds people who **are already** faithful, and promotes them to positions. Example: what Paul taught Timothy to look for when looking for leaders.

Third, God looks for a person with a yielded heart. vs. 12-13

1. When Samuel came to anoint David, David didn't say, "Don't do that. I don't want that greasy oil on my head." David was willing to allow Samuel to apply the oil. Did you know that oil in the Bible is a picture or type of the Holy Spirit? Notice verse 13.

- David had a yielded heart, and God's Spirit came upon him from that day forward.
2. Today, God's Spirit works in a different way. He doesn't just come **on** a person for a special task. God's Spirit actually **indwells** the believer at the moment of salvation. But, a believer has a choice to make each day:
 - Will I yield to God's Holy Spirit, and allow the Spirit to fill and control my actions and attitudes? Ephesians 5:18
 - Will I grieve the Holy Spirit and do things my way, and do what I feel like doing? Ephesians 4:30-31
 3. God can only use a person that has chosen to yield himself to the indwelling Holy Spirit. God looks for people who desire to study and learn God's Word, they are eager to listen to God's Word being taught, and eager to implement into their lives what the Spirit reveals.

In Conclusion:

1. Who is the person that God is looking for to use? Not the smartest or most beautiful. I am so thankful for that! This would rule most of us out.
2. You don't have to be wealthy, affluent, or flashy. In fact, most of the time, these things keep a person from being used by God. Why? They get arrogant and prideful about themselves. God cannot use a prideful person.
3. Go back to story. One by one, Jesse's sons march by Samuel. Samuel said with each one, "This must be the one." But out in the fields was a shepherd boy with a clean, faithful, yielded heart. He had a heart for God.
4. God said, "He is the one. David—a man after God's own heart!" You must evaluate your own heart and ask yourself, "Am I the person that God is looking for?"