1 Samuel Chapter 16: 1-12

Please **pray before beginning to read and study your bible**. **Repent of any sin or attitude** that would prevent you from hearing the Holy Spirit and ask him to guide your heart and mind as you read. **Read through the entire chapter first** before going back to read and answer questions. **Take notes** when God reveals Himself to you.

In the beginning of this chapter, we see Samuel grieving over Saul's fall from grace. The LORD appointed Samuel to develop a special connection to Israel's king, a relationship that ended in estrangement, disillusionment, sorrow and heartache.

1. What are some biblical proofs of Samuel's close bond with Saul? Do you think he may have felt personally responsible for his wayward direction?

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2. Do you think Samuel would have been reluctant to find another politician to mold and support after such a disappointing turn in Saul's once humble character?

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3. Rather than wallow in dejection, what does God tell him to do?

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4. Did God offer alternative solutions for Samuel, such as keeping a safe distance from politics or continuing a beneficial association with the king for the sake of mutually supported policies?

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Samuel well understood Saul's intense craving for power. Typical of politicians, Saul tolerated Samuel's pesky presence as long as it benefited him or posed no real threat to his position. As we saw in the last chapter, he confessed to his sin, blamed the people for it, then sought to remain in good standing with Samuel and the LORD.

5. How did Samuel think Saul would react to his disloyalty?

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6. In verse two, was Samuel concerned for his own life or concerned that he wouldn't be able to finish the job God had assigned him?

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7. Has the fear of retribution from someone in a powerful position ever stonewalled your faithful engagement in a course of action the LORD has called you to take?

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8. Does God address Samuel's concerns? How does he provide the means for Samuel's success?

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9. Why didn't the LORD just reveal His entire plan in verses 2-3 so that Samuel could save time, making sure David was prepared and present for the sacrifice and anointing? What lessons are learned as a result of his patience and faith?

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10. Why did the townspeople tremble when Samuel entered Bethlehem? How did they want Samuel to behave? Has he shown much concern for propriety, pleasant interactions and acceptance from the people? Who does Samuel seek to please, no matter the means nor the consequence?

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Samuel seeks out Jesse and his sons and after sanctifying them, calls them to join him in the sacrifice. David is not in attendance, and it would appear that Jesse has no intention of inviting him.

11. Why was David not invited to the sacrifice along with his brothers, tending sheep like a servant while the elder brothers were being consecrated for this special occasion? Based upon Eliab's response to David in 1 Samuel 17: 26-28, how do Jesse's other sons feel about their ruddy, admirable and handsome brother?

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12. Does Jesse know that Samuel is looking to anoint one of his sons for the LORD's service (v. 8-9)? After all seven of the older sons pass, does Jesse appear eager to present his youngest as an option or does he seem to make excuses for precluding

him?

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13. The Bible says that David was ruddy. What does the word mean? Why is this feature mentioned if it does not contrast with the rest of his brothers?

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It is interesting that Jesse was the third generation and David the fourth generation from Rahab, the prostitute that was saved from destruction in Jericho by her faith in Israel's God. We are going to probe into what may have contributed to the favoritism shown to the eldest brothers versus the triviality shown to David. Go back and read Exodus 34:7 in the KJV Bible.

14. What three offences does the LORD say He forgives? How do these terms differ in meaning when you investigate the Hebrew text? (This is a good opportunity for you to use the Blue Letter Bible app or another good concordance)

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15. Which of these three offences, when observed in the father, does the LORD "visit" upon the children and children's children to the third and fourth generation?

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16. Iniquity and sin are mentioned separately in several verses throughout the Bible. Read Isaiah 6:7 and Psalm 32:5. Which appears to be an inherited condition, sin or iniquity?

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17. Read Psalm 51:5 in the KJV. This psalm was written by King David in remorse and repentance after his adulterous affair with Bathsheba and subsequent murder of her husband. What offence was being committed when David was conceived? What does David blame for his lustful heart?

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18. How is "visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children" a punishment for sin? We will see how this generational curse plays out in David's life. Have you experienced the consequences of generational iniquity?

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Once again, the LORD reveals His heart for those in humble and broken circumstances. Although He knew the iniquity in David's heart and its future implications, He sought him out to rule over his people Israel and, through his line, to produce the Messiah, who's blood pardons our sins and cleanses us from iniquity.

19. Consider the parable Jesus gives of the shepherd and the lost sheep in Luke 15: 1-7. Did Jesus, the Word spoken to Samuel, reveal in this account of David his inclination to leave the "ninety and nine just persons" to go after "that which is lost?"

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One more search in the New Testament and we will wrap this section up. Read 1 Corinthians 1: 27-31.

20. Why does God choose the foolish, weak, lowly and despised things of this world to shame the wise, the strong, and the things that are valued by this world?

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21. Who can take the credit for bringing you to Jesus Christ?

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22. Who can take credit for your wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption?

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23. How does failure to give credit to the LORD for all good things in your life lead to a boastful spirit? How does God relate to proud people? (James 4:6) What can we learn about the consequences of pride through Saul's story?

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