COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
FIRST AND SECOND SAMUEL
LESSON 9
CHOICE OF DAVID – DECLINE OF SAUL
1 SAMUEL 16
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 8 – NOVEMBER 13

Chapter 16 marks a turning point in the book of 1 Samuel. Up to this point Samuel and Saul were the main characters in the book. From this chapter through the end of the book, David becomes the center even though he does not become the king until the early chapters of 2 Samuel. As God's choice for king, a man after God's heart, David becomes the model for all future human kings of Israel. Ultimately David will show the need for and the anticipation of the eternal son of David, the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

For the remaining chapters of I Samuel, God is sovereignly orchestrating the events recorded in this book to lift David as the ruler of Israel while effecting the decline and end of Saul's reign.

In this chapter we are introduced to this young man who is the man after God's own heart. Since God looks on the heart, we must ask God to constantly search us to know our hearts. (**Ps.139:23-24**)

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13 God's Choice of David

1. From **verse 16:1,** what is God's question of Samuel and His direction to Samuel?

2. In **verse 2** what fear did Samuel express? How did God address that fear? Was God being deceptive in His instruction to Samuel?

3. Describe the process in **verses 3-5** for the assembly to identify God choice for king. From our earlier studies remember that Samuel filled the role of both judge and prophet. With that in mind, why were the elders of Bethlehem trembling as they went to meet Samuel?

4. In **verses 6-7**, how did God instruct Samuel when he considered Eliab as the choice for king? How does God's instruction in **verse 7** challenge our natural tendency to evaluate people by outward appearances?

5. Describe Samuel's selection process in **verses 8-11**.

6. How was David described and what occurred at the time Samuel anointed David in **verses 12 and 13**? From **verse 13,** how was the Spirit's presence in David's life different than Saul?

Read 1 Samuel 16:14-23 Saul's Long Decline Begins

7. In **verses 14-15**, what happens to Saul after David is anointed by Samuel?

8. God exercises His sovereign control over all of creation, including evil spirits and Satan himself, to accomplish His purposes. Martin Luther described the devil as “God’s Devil”. What do the following verses reveal about God?

   - **Job 1:12**

   - **Luke 22:31**

   - **2 Cor. 12:7**

9. How do **verses 15-16** describe the relief recommended for Saul’s affliction by the terrorizing influence of the evil spirit?

10. How is David described in **verse 18** and what does that tell of David’s expanding influence and growing reputation as a man after God’s own heart?

11. In **verses 19-23**, how does God sovereignly use the evil spirit to providentially use these circumstances to pave the way for David’s entrance into Saul’s court and advance his influence in Israel to prepare David and Israel for David to ultimately become the king recognized by all of Israel?

12. As the man anointed to be king of Israel, we would naturally expect David to attempt to usurp Saul’s authority. To the contrary however, what godly character qualities does David display in these verses?

13. How are you encouraged by this account to rest in God’s sovereignty and trust in His providential care for you?

14. What actions are you taking to grow and deepen your love for Christ as a man or woman after God’s own heart? What steps are you taking to know Christ more and to understand that His ways are not our ways?