

THE MAKING OF A KING

Who am I? I became known nationally at one point in my life as a liar. At one point in my life I was also accused of being mentally deranged (and for good reason). For most of my youth, I was in trouble with senior government officials. As a teenager I killed a man. During my several marriages, I was an unfaithful husband. I had many children who ended up hating each other; several ended up killing each other during my life time; two of them committed incest. One of my eldest children deliberately undermined me and forced me into exile. On my deathbed I instructed my faithful son to arrange the murder of several of my enemies. I am mentioned or referred to more times throughout the Bible than any other man, apart from Christ. I am commended in the Scriptures as one of the finest examples of godliness and integrity of all time. Who am I?

Answer: *David of Bethlehem, the son of Jesse.*

David is one of the most amazing men in the entire Bible. While he had many faults (as mentioned above) he was a man who was sensitive to God, and longed to please Him. David is an outstanding trophy of God's grace. Since he is mentioned or referred to more than any other character other than Christ, his life is worth examining.

THE KING IN THE SHEPHERD BOY

¹¹So 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." ¹²So 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." ¹³So 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.

First Samuel 16:11-13

1. Up until this point, what had David been doing, and how did this prepare him for his future? (And what did God see in the sixteen-year-old David? Note 1Sam 13:14)

2. Do you see any similarities between the divine preparation of Moses and David? (Note Exodus 3:1) Why

God's preparations for greatness are often missed due to their almost insignificant nature. It's in the midst of the mundane that God forges our true character. It's in the humbling circumstances of life that God prepares us for greatness.

3. What is the requirement for a person to be promoted in the things of God according to Matthew 23:12 and First Peter 5:6?

David clearly knew how to walk humbly before God.

4. Read Second Samuel 22. This was David's last psalm. What spirit (attitude) does it display in the life of David?

David was anointed to be the next king of Israel after Saul. When Saul was selected to be the king, he was everything that the people thought that they wanted in a king.

5. What does Samuel attribute as the main reason for Saul's demise as King? (First Samuel 15:17 NKJV)

6. How does First Corinthians 1:26-28 reinforce this principle from David's life for the believer today? In other words, what does God look for in those He destines for greatness?

7. Based on what we've just studied, how should we walk with God if we want to do something great for Him? (after discussion refer to Micah 6:8)

God saw something in this young shepherd boy that was royal. When God looks at us He also sees the seeds of royalty. This is not a cause for arrogance, but a time to ponder the marvellous grace of God toward us.

Amen.