

DAVID THE WORSHIPER

Before David became a warrior, he was a worshiper. And a worshiper he remained up until the day he died. Countless days by himself as a young boy watching over flocks of sheep became schools of poetry and music for young David. He developed into an accomplished harpist during this time, and even became well known for his ability beyond his own community for his musical talent.

1. How do we know this based on First Samuel 16:18?

2. While David obviously had some natural ability for music, something significant happened to him that possibly put a new edge to his musical ability. Based on First Samuel 16:13, and the qualities that Saul's men were looking for (1Sam. 16:16), what might have added to David's natural ability to play the harp?

We may possess some natural talent for certain things, but when even this natural talent is given over to God it can become far more effective. Can you recall things that you've done where you felt inadequate, but sought God for help, even though you had some natural ability? What happened?

3. Based on First Samuel 16:23, how do we know that David's playing was effective and appreciated?

There is an interesting side issue here about the power of (anointed) music. Retailers know that with the right kind of background music customers are more likely to buy in their stores. Psychologists have affirmed that music can change people's moods. Personally, I rarely work without nice music happening in the background. I believe that music is original. By this I mean that God is intrinsically musical. We know that God sings (Zeph. 3:17). Music has long been associated with the presence of God (refer to Psalms; 1Sam. 10:5; 2Kings 3:15; 1Chron. 15:28; Rev. 14:2). Except for half an hour when God hushed heaven over the death of His Son (Rev. 8:1), there is constant, loud, vibrant music and singing as worship to God. Whenever God's people are revived in their passionate dedication to God there is always an associated rise in heartfelt singing, new songs, and musical skill.

4. David had been anointed as King by Samuel. What then was the significance of his appointment in First Samuel 16:21?
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Part of David's preparation for ruling was his ability to worship. Before we can truly serve God we too must be worshipers. It appears that David was absent from Saul when war broke out against the Philistines (1Sam. 17:15).

5. As well as his reputation for being a worshiper, what else was David renowned for according to First Samuel 16:18?
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David is a great example of someone who had natural talent, but didn't rely on his own natural abilities. Even after he received an anointing from God, he continued to humbly seek God for help.

6. How did this eminent musician and warrior commence his day? (Psalm 5:1-3. Note also Psalm 28:1-2; 30:1-2; 39:12; 69:3; 70:1)
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We are not told anything about the servant who had spotted David and had seen in him the musical skills necessary to calm down Saul, and the traits that earned David the credit of being a brave warrior (1Sam. 16:18). Who knows how things would have panned out if he had not spoken up about David? Perhaps he was even doing himself out of a prestigious job by promoting David to the King's court. Maybe you can see in someone else potential for doing something well that requires you to "promote" them appropriately to the right people.

7. We will explore David's tussle with Goliath in the next study. But what does First Samuel 17:55 say about how King Saul must have regarded those in his close service? (Note First Samuel 16:18-19)
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It's nice to remember other people's names, it shows basic interest for that person, and even care. David remembered names, Saul didn't. This is just one reason why we know that David had a shepherd's heart, while Saul had a self-centred heart. May God make us all a little more like David the worshiper.

Amen.