

“God Often Uses Underdogs”

The Story — Part 11

1 Samuel 16—2 Samuel 5

1. God saw David with the potential of a king.

He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of Israel his inheritance. And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.

Psalms 78:70-72

- **David was fully engaged caring for sheep.**
- **David protected and rescued his sheep from danger.**
- **David was a man after God’s own heart.**

"You acted foolishly," Samuel said (to Saul). "You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

1 Samuel 13:13-14

2. Others did not see David with the potential of a king.

- **David’s father does not summon David when Samuel came to anoint a new king.**

Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these." So 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."

1 Samuel 16:10-11

- **David’s older brother sees David as a bother.**

When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle."

1 Samuel 17:28

- **King Saul views David as a mere boy.**

Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy, and he has been a fighting man from his youth."

1 Samuel 17:33

- **Goliath views David as only a boy.**

Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to

David. He looked David over and saw that he was only a boy, ruddy and handsome, and he despised him. He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

1 Samuel 17:41-44

3. God takes David to “king training” “boot camp.”

- **God uses ungodly Saul to train David in godly character.**

After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi." So Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Craggs of the Wild Goats. He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. The men said, "This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe. Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the Lord." With these words David rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.

1 Samuel 24:1-7

- **David lives as a fugitive to learn dependence on God.**

David sang to the Lord the words of this song when the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said: "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior—from violent men you save me. I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies."

2 Samuel 22:1-4 (& Psalm 18:1-3)

- **After 14 years of training, David became king over Israel.**

When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a compact with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years.

2 Samuel 5:3-4

4. David points to “the One” who will come as the Messiah.

After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: "I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him

to do.” From this man’s descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as He promised.

Acts 13:20-23

Application: David sets an incredible example for us in our Christian walk. Our walk, like David’s, is a walk of faith and trust in the promises of God.

- David was confident in God as a youth!
- David was tested and seasoned by God before given the role and responsibility of king.
- David waited for God to work; he did not take matters into his own hands.
- David demonstrated a heart toward God by his obedience.
- David demonstrated a heart for God by his continually seeking God for direction and protection.
- David demonstrated a heart toward God by a life focused on worship.
- David was used of God to point people to Jesus.