



CHOSEN

A BIBLE STUDY BY MICHELLE KAREN D'SILVA





®CHOSEN

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TODAY'S SCATTERED SEED

*“...rise and anoint him;
for this is the one.”*

1 SAMUEL 16:7



SETTING THE SCENE

The books of 1 and 2 Samuel were written originally in the Hebrew language. They derive their names from Samuel who was the last of the judges in Israel's history.

1 Samuel records a major change from the time of the judges to Israel's first king. The judges had led the Israelites for about 350 years after the death of Joshua. During this time the Israelites called their leaders "judges." Samuel was the last of the judges. He was also a prophet and a priest and, hence, played a pivotal role in anointing Saul, Israel's first King. 1 Samuel ends with the death of Saul. The book of 2 Samuel records the life of David as king.

In 1 Samuel we read about Saul's character, his valiant stature and leadership. But Saul did not last long. He disobeyed God, refusing to submit to Him as the One True King. With no hesitation, God ended that royal dynasty and looked to another to replace him.

The one God sought, a rugged shepherd boy named David, had very little in common with his predecessor. David was despised by his own family, including his father, who did not see any kingly potential in him. This teaches us some fundamental truths about God's standards of measurement in contrast with our own. Man looks at outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). Despite people's opinion, despite his own flaws and weaknesses, David went on to become the greatest king in Israel's history.

What qualified David to be king? Verse 7 tells us David had a heart for God. God had chosen a young boy who had a heart "after God's own heart"(1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22). David succeeded because God chose him for the job. Befitting one so chosen, he persistently turned to God for direction.



GOD'S CHOICE

“...for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

1 SAMUEL 16:7





The prophet had walked into the house of Jesse to anoint the new king of Israel, as God had instructed. Jesse had brought in his finest sons. Samuel saw Eliab and was impressed by his appearance, thinking that God must have chosen this one. But Samuel was wrong. Samuel's choice reveals how deeply ingrained it is for people, even strong believers, to favor outward appearance over true character.

Aren't we tempted to choose friends based on their appearance and popularity? Don't we choose leaders by looking at their outward, confident personalities? Could this be the same mistake Israel made when they elected Saul as their first king? Saul may have looked like he possessed the strength of a king, but did he have the heart of a king, as God desired? It did not matter how good Eliab or the other sons looked, God rejected them. (1 Samuel 16:7)

Have you ever wondered how perplexed Samuel might have been? Everything he saw seemed to point to the vision God gave him, yet Samuel had misunderstood. God reminded Samuel that the human mind has an overwhelming tendency to make assumptions based on appearances. God's choices don't always make sense to us. He doesn't love us because of what we can do for him. He loves us because of who we are: sons and daughters, ransomed and redeemed by His great love.

David didn't look like a king. His own father thought so little of him. David was not his father's first choice, nor was he the prophet's choice. David was God's choice, and that made all the difference. This is a great consolation for those who fail by the world's standard of strength and worthiness. Fortunately, God judges by faith and character, not appearance.

"Choose" comes from the Greek word "eklegomai," meaning "to single out, to choose out." In other words, separated, set apart—for God's own purpose.

Pause for a moment and put yourself in the shoes of David:

How do you feel to not be your father's first choice?

- Rejected
- Alienated
- Ignored
- Unloved
- Unseen
- Not enough

What thoughts run through your mind when you think of the word "eklegomai" for yourself?

- I don't have what it takes.
- I am not worthy.
- I am not popular.
- I am not talented.
- I am an introvert, I don't fit the bill.



Think for a moment: if we qualified to be God's "Chosen" based on what we did, the genealogy of Christ would look quite different. But this is the very hope we profess: that the genealogy of Christ consists of flawed people—sinners—who are encountered by a love that redeems and transforms. It is a fitting reminder that, by the Grace of God, every sinner has the potential to become a saint.

Do you see yourself in this narrative?

Perhaps turned down by your friends, rejected by your spouse, ignored by your parents, or betrayed by those you love? Perhaps you fought for your parents attention and had very little share, as David did. It is in such moments that we are reminded that those who are rejected by men often become the beloved of the Lord. Remember, God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called. God chose David and God has chosen you - not by your merit but by the merit of His unchanging love for you.

**SOW:**

Read 1 Samuel 16:7. Additionally, read John 15:16; Luke 16:15; 1 Chronicles 28:9

**CULTIVATE:**

What are some ways that you may be guilty of shallow, surface-level judgments? What should you do when you are tempted to focus on someone's appearance instead of their heart?

**GROW:**

Of those in your life whom you know closely, who do you look up to? Spend some time talking with them about why their qualities inspire you. If you do not have a spiritual elder, speak to your parish priest. Ask him to help you find a mentor to whom you can go for spiritual discernment.



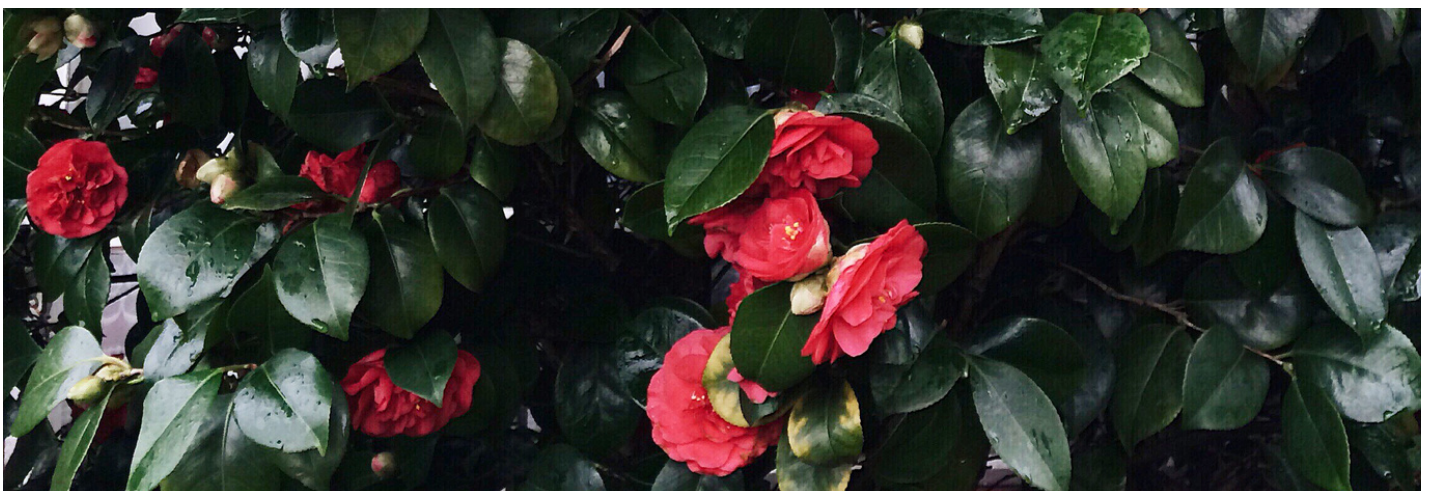
GOD'S TRAINING

*“...There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.”
And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him...”*

1 SAMUEL 16:11

David was anointed king in secret. Saul was still king while God was preparing David for future responsibilities. God prepared David's character and caliber for leadership by allowing him to tend sheep on the hills. Few things in life seem less spiritual than keeping smelly sheep. yet God used David's skills for eternal

purposes. His choice teaches us that He often chooses unlikely people, in unlikely places, to accomplish His ends. David had no idea, tending sheep in obscurity, that he had entered boot camp. Behind the scenes, in the most menial of jobs, David was being trained for kingship.





Think about the invaluable experience David gained on the hills;

- Life skills at ground level
- Dependency on God
- Courage and the skills to take down beasts
- Protecting the flock against all unfavorable conditions
- Opportunity to write psalms and poetry
- And so much more

David's isolation on the green meadows drove him to depend on God. God was his only friend and confidant. No wonder he is known as a man after God's own heart: there was nothing on these hills to pursue other than the heart of God.

What about you? Are you questioning whether God can use you? Are you comparing yourself with those who have gone ahead of you? Do you feel like your skills are being wasted, that there are no opportunities before you?

Take heart—what you see as insignificant, God sees as significant. Everything you have right now and everything you are going through is preparing you for greater things. If God can use a boy who smelled like sheep to be King, he can certainly use anyone.

**SOW:**

Read 1 Samuel 16:11 again. Additionally, read 2 Samuel 7:8

**CULTIVATE:**

What are a few of your occupational skills? Can you think of skills you have acquired in what may have seemed like a season of obscurity? Can you identify your training ground?

**GROW:**

Pray with a trusted friend, thanking God for the skills with which He has blessed you. Invite Him into areas of your life where you feel insecure and inadequate.



GOD'S ANOINTING

“...Rise and anoint him; for this is the one...”

1 SAMUEL 16:12

At the Lord's command, Samuel poured oil on David's head—an honor reserved only for prophets, priests, and kings. The anointing had to be performed by a person authorized by the Lord. Oil was used to symbolize the Holy Spirit. This anointing signified that a person was chosen for God's purposes.

The word “anointed” means “to be set apart.” Just like vestments and holy vessels at the altar are set apart for God, so are we—anointed and called for greater things. God appointed David for a specific mission. He may have hardly felt like it most of his days, but God's purpose for David was unparalleled and undefeated. The key to David's success in life is stated in 1 Samuel 16:18: “the Lord is with him.” God's vision for David was crystal clear.





Like David, we, too, are chosen by God. We belong to Him. We are members of His body by virtue of our baptism. We have been set apart for Him and sent forth into the world. Irrespective of background, race, failure, or even our inability to fully see our purpose, our baptism is the reality of God's choice. We are empowered by Him to accomplish the purpose for which He called us into.

It was in the midst of a great national crisis that David was selected to rule over the nation of Israel. But David's public appointment as King of Israel was the outcome of what had taken place in private between him and God long before. It took 20 years before he would be appointed to the position of king. But David trusted the character of God and God trusted David's heart.

**SOW:**

Read 1 Samuel 16:12 again. Additionally, read Hebrews 11:23

**CULTIVATE:**

Have you ever felt "called" by God for a certain task? How have you responded? How might knowing you've been handpicked by God deepen your affection for Him and affect your life's decisions?

**GROW:**

What will you do with the anointing you have received? How will you influence your home, your relationships, the church, and the world as God's chosen?

AFFIRM YOUR TREASURE

- I did not choose God; God chose me.
- God does not look at outward appearance; God looks at my heart.
- God faithfully keeps His promises.
- Irrespective of my past failures or my circumstances, God can use my ordinary efforts to make an eternal impact.
- I am anointed with the Holy Spirit's Power to do great things.



ONLINE RESOURCES

You might also like to use the resource links provided below to study further. These are my favorite go-to online Bible study tools.

- Bible Gateway – Every version you can imagine is online
- Bible Word Search
- Catholic Exchange

ADDITIONAL VERSES TO REFLECT

- Luke 16:15 – God is always focused on the heart of man.
- Luke 6:45 – The mouth speaks what the heart is full of.
- Matthew 5:8 – Blessed are the pure in heart.
- Romans 12:2 – Do not conform by the world's standards but be transformed by the renewing of the mind.
- Philippians 4:8 – Dwell on things from above.
- Mark 9:35, 10:31 – God often chooses the weak and unlikely.