



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Do you play a musical instrument, or did you take lessons as a child?
OR, who is your favorite band? What effect does music have on you or your moods?
- 2) Read 1 Samuel 16:13 & 14. In your opinion, does God both provide power for a task and remove that power at his discretion? Can you think of other instances in the Bible to support your answer? Why did God remove his Spirit from Saul? Why did he place his Spirit on David?
- 3) In what ways today do you feel “the Lord is with you?” (16:18)
- 4) Read 1 Samuel 16:18. List the words Saul’s servants use to describe young David. Do you think a person’s reputation is important?
- 5) In your opinion, can disobedience to God cause inner conflict? Why or why not? Do you think Saul’s servants correctly “diagnosed” Saul’s problem? Do you think their solution was appropriate?
- 6) Do you think people were truthful with Saul? Why or why not? Do you think people are truthful with you? Is it difficult for you to tell people the truth when it could be painful for them? Why? What does Ephesians 4:15 mean when it says to “speak the truth in love?”
- 7) In your opinion, why does God delay installing David as king? In what ways did you have to spend time in “traveling to your preferred destination” this week? (Leaders: use this question to move the group from stories of waiting in lines, traffic, etc. – to the ways they feel they’re waiting on God)

Clarity vs. Trust - Share with the group the areas of your life you could use clarity in, and what role trust is playing as you wait.

Read Psalm 46:10. In what ways does this apply to your life right now? Spend time praying for those in the group who are struggling with the delays of life.



DAVID #2: Productive Waiting **1 Samuel 16:14-23**

I love vacation. The best part of vacation is the week before, and the first 3 days of vacation – goes downhill after that. I am all about the vacation, but I HATE the travel. (Hawaii). Timeshare salesperson said to us: “oh, so you don’t vacation?”

Clue: you can’t get to vacation without the trip. Things we do to try to make the trip better: snacks, reading, “trip-tix.” Or, expedite by driving all-nighters.

Compare life: we tend to be all about the destination. (Heaven) Endure the rest. Even day to day, we love the fulfillment of dreams, accomplishments: but the “travel” to the destination, not so much. Problem is, we spend most of our time traveling, don’t we? Waiting for the “thing” to happen.

How much time do we spend waiting in life? Traffic, lines, deliveries, news of our test, will this work out, will this door open, uncertainty...like traveling, waiting for vacation.

We’ll come back to this...

REVIEW

1. Current King, Saul, had all the right stuff (1 Samuel 9-15)

1 Samuel 9:2 ...Saul, an impressive young man without equal among the Israelites--a head taller than any of the others.

But, he is unraveling. Disobedient king. So, the prophet Samuel has anointed the next-to-be king (not king yet) an unimpressive, obscure teenage shepherd, from Bethlehem. *He is the one.* **13** So from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power.

READ: Circle back and point out a few observations.

1 Samuel 16:14 Now the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him. **15** Saul’s attendants said to him, “See, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you. **16** Let our lord command his servants here to search for someone who can play the harp. He will play when the evil spirit from God comes upon you, and you will feel better.”

17 So Saul said to his attendants, “Find someone who plays well and bring him to me.” **18** One of the servants answered, “I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the harp. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the LORD is with him.”

2) No iTunes? They did have “I King.”



19 Then Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep." 20 So Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them with his son David to Saul.

21 David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much, and David became one of his armour-bearers. 22 Then Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, "Allow David to remain in my service, for I am pleased with him."

23 Whenever the spirit from God came upon Saul, David would take his harp and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.

Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one."

PRAY

1. We rely on God for the ability to accomplish our calling.

It is God's empowerment that enables us to do anything. *without me you can do nothing (Jesus)*. Application not just for King! Father, student, friend, boyfriend

The spiritual enablement (to be king) was transferred from Saul, to David

1 Samuel 16:13 ... from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power.

Vs 14 Now the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul

This is not an unusual OT practice, and is not describing the indwelling of Holy Spirit but God a special empowerment for a specific calling/task, like being King. (See 16:1 – God chose who would be King)

Da 2:21 He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them.

Described as "lovingkindness"

*2Sa 7:15 but My **lovingkindness** shall not depart from him, (David) as I took it away from Saul,*

Did Saul know that the Spirit had left him?

Jud 16:20 Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him.

2. We tend to treat the symptoms of our problems rather than the cause.

14 ...and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him. 15 Saul's attendants said to him, "See, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you. 16 Let our lord command his servants here to search for someone who can play the harp. He will play when the evil spirit from God comes upon you, and you will feel better."



THEOLOGY: 14-15) Evil spirit from the Lord? Debate over whether figurative or literal: God could be allowing a Satanic influence to torment Saul due to his repetitive disobedience. (See Romans 1, “gave them over”) Evil one will occupy vacated space that we leave available (Matthew 12:43-45)

Or, could be figuratively saying he was emotionally troubled due to all the inner conflict he was experiencing from his duplicity. Saul becomes depressed, delusional & experiences bouts of rage.

Music is prescribed? (The place music plays in our lives.) Worship. Memory. Soothes. Jacks us up. Influences us. Music could have been the right prescription, or it could have only masked symptoms. Choose music wisely.

Yet wouldn't it have been better if they told him to repent? Why didn't they? Why don't we tell our friends when they're heading down the wrong path? Who can tell their boss the truth? I don't imagine Saul being the guy you could disagree with or be truthful. Can people tell you the truth? (Sermons?)

3. Our reputation makes us or breaks us.

18 One of the servants answered, “I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the harp. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the LORD is with him.”

David's reputation: musician, *brave, warrior, well spoken, fine looking*. What great things to be said about you. He meets “palace requirements.” He is the Renaissance Man. Men?

They know who David is. Obscure? The beginning of influence. Influence is a gift/trust from God.

THEOLOGY: 18) *And the Lord is with him*. What does the Lord is with him mean? Not necessarily a theological statement, but could be he seems to be successful, his reputation, this is how it would be expressed. But theologically, an expression of God is for what we're doing, for us.

Irony here is that here, *the Lord is with him* gets David the job, later, it will make him dangerous to Saul, 1Sa 18:12 *Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with David*

21 David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much, and David became one of his armour-bearers. **22** Then Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, “Allow David to remain in my service, for I am pleased with him.”

David makes it through probation.



"he is the one?" (v 12) compare with (21): *entered Saul's service*. What would you expect the section to read? Can you say "uncomfortable?" What were the dynamics of this? How will David handle this humbling, dangerous time? It's complicated!

What stands out so prominently to me is not what happened, but what didn't happen.

David is anointed King, and the next step is not King – it's servant for the current King – security guard and wedding singer. In fact, it's 15 years before he is crowned, 15 years! 1 Samuel 16:13..... 2 Samuel 5:3. Can you relate?

4. Dreams are often preceded by and followed by – delays and difficulties.

Last week we saw David discovered by prophet Samuel, tending sheep and anointed to be the next King. What do you expect this next passage to then say? Like a children's book we expect it to read, "And Samuel anointed David to be the next King." Turn page. "And David became King." This is not just how we read the Bible, how we teach the Bible – but how we expect life to go. Problem is it rarely does. And, we're disappointed when it doesn't. We like vacation, but not the trip – right?

Do you think that David saw this as a step toward his calling or away? Put yourself in his position.

We spend the most time "delayed." You'll probably have to wait, a lot. God reveals a dream, vision, we prepare, desire. While we're traveling, we rarely know arrival time. This is how life really is. God is not our time schedule. More like when we get off a plane and check departures, only to see "delayed."

And when we're waiting, that's we start asking "how much longer?" "How many more miles?" When will I get the new job, promotion? Get married? How much longer before my divorce is final? Will I get accepted at college? Will I get my loans? Are they going to accept our offer on that house? When will we have kids? When are our kids going to move out?

And, let's be honest – we hate waiting. No one takes traveling selfies! We like the comfort of having God with us, but we don't like his calendar. I want it now: fast, easy. You can get a mortgage quote in 15 minutes. You can just hit the easy button. Instant. You can cook a pop tart in 3 secs!





PRODUCTIVE TRAVELING

1. Delay does not equal denied. SCC? There are A LOT of waiters in the Bible, traveling to their destination. David played his music, enjoyed new crib; the job paid the bills, but it was a grind. But a lot of fantastic things happen during the travel. (See Jesus, on the way to...)

2. Remember what God can do & what he said. Not what you can do. Following Jesus means we will have to get comfortable with being uncomfortable. Try setting “trigger points” to give God space to work.

2 Samuel 7:8 “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. 9 I have been with you wherever you have gone, (to Nathan)’

3. Face facts with faith. Faith always goes with denial – otherwise who needs faith – if everything is so secure and certain? (Faith – Hope – Love)

Myth or assumption: More spiritual you are the more clarity you have. Not true. Truth: More spiritual you are the less clarity you need. Stop waiting for clarity and trust.

BRENNAN MANNING: When John Kavanaugh, the noted and famous ethicist, went to Calcutta, he was seeking Mother Teresa ... and more. He went for three months to work at “the house of the dying” to find out how best he could spend the rest of his life. When he met Mother Teresa, he asked her to pray for him. “What do you want me to pray for?” she replied. He then uttered the request he had carried thousands of miles: **“Clarity. Pray that I have clarity.”** “No,” Mother Teresa answered, “I will not do that.” When he asked her why, she said, “Clarity is the last thing you are clinging to and must let go of.” When Kavanaugh said that she always seemed to have clarity, the very kind of clarity he was looking for, Mother Teresa laughed and said: **“I have never had clarity; what I have always had is trust.** So I will pray that you trust God.”