



Called

The Overlooked Son

Main Text: 1 Samuel 16:1–13

Secondary Texts: 1 Samuel 17; Psalm 78:70–72; Psalm 23; John 10:11; Matthew 3:17

Main Idea: David was not simply chosen as king—he was *formed* in the pasture. In his solitude and hardship, God shaped a heart that reflected His own. David becomes both a foreshadow of Christ and a living illustration of how God works in those He calls.

I. God Sees What Man Overlooks (1 Sam 16:1–7)

- Man looks at the outward appearance; God sees the heart (Hebrew: *levav* – the inner self, desires, intention, and will).
- Saul was chosen for his height and image (1 Sam 9:2); David for his devotion.
- **Character Attribute:** Humility. David didn't strive for recognition—he served faithfully where he was.
- **Faith Application:** Trust God's timing. Don't demand visibility; develop character in the shadows.

II. The Pasture is God's Preparation Ground (vv. 8–11)

- David was not even considered for the lineup—he was tending sheep.
- Yet it was there he fought lions and bears, learned courage, and cultivated intimacy with God.
- Psalm 78:70–72 affirms: God chose him from the sheep pens and shaped him with integrity of heart.
- **Character Attributes:** Courage, faithfulness, resilience.

- **Faith Application:** The quiet seasons matter. God sees how you fight battles no one else applauds.

III. Worship Was His Weapon (vv. 14–23)

- David's harp wasn't a hobby—it was a manifestation of a deep life in the presence of God.
- Worship was his response to solitude, not distraction. It developed emotional maturity and spiritual authority.
- His worship drove out torment in Saul (v.23), foreshadowing Christ who brings peace to the afflicted.
- **Character Attribute:** Intimacy with God, emotional discipline.
- **Faith Application:** Worship in secret builds authority in public. Let solitude become sanctuary, not suffering.

IV. Anointed Before Appointed

- Though David was anointed in chapter 16, he returned to sheep until chapter 17.
- His time in the field was not wasted; it was foundational.
- Faithfulness in obscurity always precedes fruitfulness in visibility.
- **Character Attribute:** Patience, trust.
- **Faith Application:** Don't shortcut the process. God's anointing is real even when no one else sees it.

V. David as a Foreshadow of Christ

- Like David, Jesus was overlooked (John 1:46) and yet called beloved by the Father (Matt. 3:17).
- David shepherded Israel; Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11).
- David's private victories with God equipped him for public battles. Likewise, Jesus spent time in wilderness before public ministry.
- **David's life teaches:** If you know Him deeply, you will reveal Him naturally. *By default, he made Him known.*
- **Character Attribute:** Deep spiritual awareness, identity rooted in God.
- **Faith Application:** Form your identity in God's presence, not people's approval.

VI. Gospel Thread: The Only Crown Worth Keeping

- David didn't cling to worldly crowns; he trusted God to raise him.
- Contrast Saul's spiral into fear and control with David's trust.
- Christ wore a crown of thorns to give us the crown of life (James 1:12).
- **Faith Application:** Let go of the crown culture teaches you to chase. Christ alone gives the one worth keeping.

Challenge for Action:

- Embrace your pasture. Stop resenting solitude—it's where kings are formed.
- Pick up your harp. Worship where no one sees you.
- Trust the anointing even if the appointment hasn't come.
- Let God form in you a heart like His.

Small Group & Personal Reflection Questions:

1. What does it look like to be faithful in the hidden places?
2. Where are you tempted to seek appearance over integrity?
3. How has God used loneliness or hardship to prepare you?
4. What "harp" (gift) are you neglecting in your field season?
5. How does David's life prepare your heart to trust Jesus more fully?

Conclusion:

David knew what it was like to be forgotten by men, but remembered by God. In the pasture, in the throne room, and on the battlefield, the Lord was with him. And because David knew Him, he revealed Him. So do not despise the pasture. That's where the King walks with those He's called.