

Sunday, March 1st, 2026

Giant Killer

Heart for God

Last week we raised and dealt with the question, “Are you a victim or a victor?” We looked at how Saul was blaming others for his own mistakes that caused him to be disobedient to God and go against what God wanted him to do. A bigger picture of this disobedience is that Saul was commanded by God to not only kill and defeat Amalek and his army, but **1 Samuel 15:2-3** says this:

²Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. ³Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’ ”

This may seem harsh to us today because truthfully speaking, vengeance isn’t acceptable New Covenant behavior. Now that Jesus has come, He has made a huge difference.

In the Old Testament, groups of people who had given themselves over to idolatry and immorality were like cancers in the body of humankind. If left untreated, that sickness would spread quickly to the rest of the body. As terrible as it is to amputate someone’s hand, arm, or leg, loss of limb is still superior to the death of the entire person. Sometimes you just have to cut the diseased part out in order to save the rest of the body. This was exactly what God—in His love and mercy—was instructing the Israelites to do. By utterly destroying these men, women, children, and animals, they were cutting out a cancer that threatened to kill the rest of humankind.

Before Jesus came so people could be born again, transformed, and delivered of demons, there were entire societies that were so given over to the devil that they were demon possessed. Men, women, children, and even their animals were demon possessed. There is much archaeological evidence—statues and writings that establishes this as fact. The sin of these societies was gross beyond what we can even imagine in our society today, and our sin is pretty gross in many ways. These people were participating on a wide scale in bestiality, sodomy, child sacrifice, and all these kinds of things, to the extent that they couldn’t be cured. There was no cure before Jesus came. So, although the command given to Saul constituted an act of judgment against specific individuals, it was also an act of mercy upon the world, as the actions of Israel were meant to literally cut this cancer out and destroy it.

But as you read on in this story, we see that Samuel was hearing animal noises. When he asked Saul about them, Saul just made excuses, saying that his people made them bring all the best animals back with them so that they could sacrifice them to God. See how he tries to turn his act of disobedience into trying to make it sound so spiritual? He even brought king Amalek back with them to show him off and how they defeated him. This was disobedience.

This is why God had to find a replacement for Saul. Saul had made himself big in his own eyes. So, God sent Samuel to find the next king.

Have you ever had the thought, “I’m not qualified to do great things for God.” “I don’t have the talent that others have, especially to speak about God to others around me.”

God sent Samuel to Bethlehem and found Jesse. He told him that God had sent him to anoint a king from among his sons. “Therefore, call your house together immediately!” So, Jesse’s sons came before the prophet.

1 Samuel 16:6

⁶So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is before Him!”

Eliab was David’s oldest brother. He was the biggest, strongest, and probably the meanest and toughest too. As a result, Samuel was looking at him and remembering Saul. Saul had been head-and-shoulders taller than anyone else in Israel. He had been the oldest son of his father. The first person that God had chosen to be king was this hunk of a man, so Samuel was just supposing that this was the way it was going to be. When he saw Eliab—the oldest, strongest, tallest, toughest-looking son of Jesse—Samuel commented, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is before me!”

1 Samuel 16:7

⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For *the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.*”

What an awesome truth! **God doesn’t look at us the way *man* does.** David was the runt of the litter. As a matter of fact, David’s own father didn’t think that he had a chance, so he didn’t even put David’s name in the hat. Jesse had eight sons, but he only brought the eldest seven as candidates for this job of king of Israel. He thought, David doesn’t stand a chance. Never in a million years would he be picked! David was the youngest. He didn’t look like king material. But God doesn’t look at things the way man does.

When you evaluate people or physical things, you can’t just evaluate them based on the way they look. Neither can you read a book by simply looking at its cover. **God looks on the *inside* and sees differently than man sees.**

This is also true for when other people evaluate you. You don't need to buy into their evaluation because they may be merely looking on your outward appearance. If you're born again, you are a brand-new person on the inside. You are a king and priest on the inside. You are a son of God. You're anointed. You're powerful. One third of you is "wall-to-wall" Holy Spirit! Don't let other people's opinions and evaluations of who you are in the natural world limit you! (your education, looks, talents, voice, and abilities)

Our society puts so much emphasis on outward appearance. People are starving themselves to death because they believe that skinny is beautiful and fat is ugly. We put too much attention on that. It doesn't matter what size you are, it doesn't matter if you are not the best looking, or don't have the greatest education, doesn't mean that God can't use you! We need to go to **1 Corinthians 1:26-27:**

²⁶ For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. ²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

God chooses the base, weak, despised, and foolish things to confound the wise. God sees things differently than man does.

Don't accept evaluations based on external things only. **If you have a relationship** with God, that **qualifies** you. The Lord has put all kinds of good things inside you. You just need to start **seeing** yourself the way God sees you.

1 Samuel 16:8-9

⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, neither hath the LORD chosen this.

⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, neither hath the LORD chosen this.

Finally, all seven of the sons present had passed before the prophet. Samuel said, "Nope! None of these are him!" As far as Samuel knew, these were all of the sons of Jesse. Yet he was sensitive enough to God to know that none of them were the right one. Since he knew that God had said that one of Jesse's sons would be the next king and obviously none of these were him, Samuel asked, "Are these all the sons you have?"

1 Samuel 16:11

¹¹ And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here."

Jesse didn't even put David's name in the hat. He didn't think enough of his youngest son to bring him before the prophet. But Samuel said, "He must be the one! Therefore, none of us are going to sit down until David comes."

Back then, they couldn't just call David on his cell phone. There were no cars to drive out to the pasture to get him. David may have been quite a way off in the wilderness, off somewhere keeping the sheep. It must have taken someone traveling on foot round-trip at least an hour to bring David back. So when Samuel said, "None of us will sit down until he comes," it put a real urgency upon the messenger to retrieve David as quickly as possible. It was a pain for all of them to just stand there until David came.

This also showed a tremendous amount of honor and respect. By this time, Samuel had recognized that David was the chosen one, regardless of what he might look like. The prophet was going by the Word of the Lord in honoring David.

Out in the wilderness, David knew what was happening. He knew that the prophet was there to anoint a king. He knew that his seven older brothers were brought in as candidates, while he was left out in the field with the sheep. A lesser, more insecure person would have been crying and bellyaching. They would have said, "God, I didn't even get a chance!"

We don't know exactly what David was doing, but there's no indication in the Word that he was whining, griping, or complaining. In fact, if he had done that, God would never have selected him anyway. Even though David was initially excluded, God passed by all the others and had them stand until he arrived. God considered, chose, and honored David, the one whom no one else considered. God looked on David's heart. He passed over everyone else to find David!

2 Chronicles 16:9

⁹ For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

This verse doesn't say or mean the Lord is looking for someone sinless or problem free. It means someone whose heart is fully committed, completely belonging to the Lord; someone who is seeking God with their whole heart. God passed over an entire nation, seven older brothers—everybody—to find David. Then He made them stand until David came. **The Lord put honor, favor, and blessing** upon David because David had put **honor, favor, and blessing** upon the Lord.

God wants to do the same for you. You don't have to be a silver vessel, just a surrendered one. **It's not your ability; it's your availability God is interested in.** God is looking for someone who will make Him first in their life. Your response to the Lord right now ought to

be, “Look no further! Here I am! I’m turning my life over to You with my whole heart.” If you genuinely do that, you will be promoted.

You’ll see God’s blessing come to pass in your life.

1 Samuel 16:12

¹²So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!”

The Bible describes David’s appearance as “ruddy”. This word literally means “red.” Scholars aren’t sure whether this means that David was redheaded or just had a red complexion. Either way, such an appearance would certainly be unusual for a Jew. The word “ruddy” also has the connotation that he was pampered, what we would call a “Mama’s Boy” today.

These aren’t necessarily bad traits or characteristics, but they aren’t what you would expect in a warrior-king. It certainly wasn’t what Samuel was expecting at the beginning. But God told him, “Don’t look on the outward appearance. Look on his heart.” God chose David, despite the fact that in the natural he didn’t have the height, stature, build, or looks one would expect of a king. God chose him because of his heart.

Regardless of what your limitations are in the natural, God looks at your heart. Even if your body is handicapped, God isn’t looking at that. He’s looking at your heart. Your heart isn’t handicapped unless you choose to let it be that way. You can choose God. You can seek Him with a perfect heart. And if you do, He’ll raise you up and do miracles in your life just as He did for David.

1 Samuel 16:13

¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

Later in 1 Samuel 16, it goes on to say that David was chosen out of all the Israelites to come and play his harp before Saul because he was a valiant man and God was with. The one who recommended David to Saul was one of his servants. They were looking for someone who could play the harp and alleviate the torment Saul was experiencing from an evil spirit that was plaguing him. In the midst of this search, David’s name just happened to be brought up. Coincidence? I don’t think so!

Personally, I believe Samuel anointed David in secret because he was afraid of what Saul might do. But the principle is true: Once you have begun to seek the Lord and He releases His anointing on your life, you are like a cork. They could put you on the bottom of a lake, but you will still rise to the surface. It doesn’t matter what they do. You’re like cream—always rising to the top!

If you **seek** God with your whole heart, the eyes of the Lord will **find** you. He's looking for a person like that. He'll pass over everybody in your nation, state, and city just to find you. Once He locates you and releases His power into your life, He'll cause you to be drawn to the top. God will release His blessing through you into this world. It's just a matter of time. This is exactly what happened with David.

Don't be like Saul. He was a man pleaser, motivated by pride and arrogance. Since he was afraid of people, he was always trying to please them. This caused him to disobey God and say, "I'm not going to do it Your way. My way is better!" Saul refused to accept responsibility and became stubborn and rebellious instead. Humble yourself and accept responsibility. Come to the end of yourself and the beginning of God.

Be like David. **Prepare** your heart to **seek** the Lord. He is not looking for people with talent, education, or natural abilities. He's not against such people, but neither is He for them. What God is looking for is a heart that seeks after Him. God chooses people based on their heart.

Matthew 5:6

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

If you hunger and thirst after righteousness, you will be filled. You won't only be satisfied and have your needs met, but you'll also be filled with the power, presence, and provision of God. He will pour you out and make you a blessing to other people. Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart.

If you are born again, God gave you a perfect heart. Quit walking in the vanity of your own wisdom and embrace the wisdom of God. Renew your mind to His Word so you can see yourself the way He sees you. Understand the riches He placed within your born-again spirit and how you can experience them day-by-day.

As a brother and fellow follower of God, I haven't yet arrived, but I have left. God has spoken these things into my life in a powerful way. I have prepared my heart to seek Him and be fully committed to Him. I'm not the most qualified person to do what I do. But the Lord has called me to raise up disciples right here at Rescued Church. In the natural, it doesn't make sense. But God saw my heart, not my education (or lack thereof).

The Lord has a plan for you. As you seek Him with your whole heart, you'll find yourself walking in that plan more and more. I pray that you will let the Holy Spirit burn these truths into your heart so you will be a man or woman after God's heart too!