



A Bible Study on God's Call in Your Life

You can watch Pastor Andy's introduction to this story [here](#).

King David

"Do you feel an unlikely person to fulfil a calling in the Church or world?"

This Bible passage reminds us that David was a shepherd, the 'runt' of the family, apparently unqualified for the role, and yet the person called by God - something that came as a surprise even to the mighty Samuel himself. Perhaps it was something about his care for his flock, making him the forerunner of our great Good Shepherd.

Samuel was convinced God had chosen the immediately obvious, handsome, physically strong sons of Jesse, but God had other ideas.

Are there other hidden people who might be encouraged to think more about what vocation means for them? Are you one of them?

What are you passionate about in terms of serving God? Are you a pioneer, keen to start something new, or does your passion fit within the existing structures of your local church, the wider church or the community beyond?"

(<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/vocations/stories-calling>)

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

16 GOD addressed Samuel: "So, how long are you going to mope over Saul? You know I've rejected him as king over Israel. Fill your flask with anointing oil and get going. I'm sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I've spotted the very king I want among his sons."

²⁻³ "I can't do that," said Samuel. "Saul will hear about it and kill me. GOD said, 'Take a heifer with you and announce, 'I've come to lead you in worship of GOD, with this heifer as a sacrifice.' Make sure Jesse gets invited. I'll let you know what to do next. I'll point out the one you are to anoint."

⁴ Samuel did what GOD told him. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the town fathers greeted him, but apprehensively. "Is there something wrong?" ⁵ "Nothing's wrong. I've come to sacrifice this heifer and lead you in the worship of GOD. Prepare yourselves, be consecrated, and join me in worship." He made sure Jesse and his sons were also consecrated and called to worship.

⁶ When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "Here he is! GOD's anointed!"

⁷ But GOD told Samuel, "Looks aren't everything. Don't be impressed with his looks and stature. I've already eliminated him. GOD judges persons differently than humans do. Men and women look at the face; GOD looks into the heart."

⁸ Jesse then called up Abinadab and presented him to Samuel. Samuel said, "This man isn't GOD's choice either." ⁹ Next Jesse presented Shammah. Samuel said, "No, this man isn't either."

¹⁰ Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel. Samuel was blunt with Jesse, "GOD hasn't chosen any of these." ¹¹ Then he asked Jesse, "Is this it? Are there no more sons?" "Well, yes, there's the runt. But he's out tending the sheep." Samuel ordered Jesse, "Go get him. We're not moving from this spot until he's here." ¹² Jesse sent for him. He was brought in, the very picture of health—bright-eyed, good-looking.

GOD said, "Up on your feet! Anoint him! This is the one." ¹³ Samuel took his flask of oil and anointed him, with his brothers standing around watching. The Spirit of GOD entered David like a rush of wind, God vitally empowering him for the rest of his life. Samuel left and went home to Ramah.

(The Message Translation)

- What qualities do we look for in "successful" leaders today? What qualities might God prefer we seek out that we often overlook?
- What qualities of leadership are needed in organizations / governments right now, in February, 2021?
- In 1 Samuel 8 it's clear that God doesn't think a monarchy is a good way to go for Israel, and doesn't predict it will end well. Does God set David, and the rest of the Kings, up for failure? Do you ever feel that way in day-to-day life?
- What do you think God is saying to us when he chooses a different kind of king when he chooses David? You can look at 1 Samuel 9:1-2 for a comparison. God seems to be choosing the opposite of Saul, at least on the outside.

Prayer: *God who calls us all to contribute to your Kingdom,*

Take our insecurities and vulnerabilities and weave them through with your holy confidence, which always reassures us that we have something to offer.

As we explore what you are asking of us, we pray for integrity of heart, clarity of mind, and a yearning to love and serve others wherever that may take us;

For deep peace about this next step, and for God's Light in our eyes

Amen.

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