Session 1 Overview of David’s Life (1 Sam. 13:14)

1. David: a witness and model for God’s people
   * 1. David is a picture of what God wants to release by the Spirit on the end-time church. He is a model for faith and obedience and for a Church that loves, worships, and wars in the Spirit.

3“I will make an everlasting covenant with you—the sure mercies of David. 4Indeed I have given him as a witness [model] to the people, a leader and commander for the people.” (Isa. 55:3-4)

17Show me a sign [model] for good…because You, Lord, have helped me. (Ps. 86:17)

*Why are we spending fourteen weeks with two sessions a week—that is twenty-eight sessions—on the life of David? Well, one reason is that there is more on the life of David than any other person in the Bible besides Jesus Himself. David is a picture of what God is looking for in the earth. He is a picture of what the Holy Spirit is going to release upon the end-time Church. He is a model of what faith and obedience looks like in weak and broken people.*

*The remarkable thing about David and his story in the Bible is that his weaknesses are not hidden. He had profound weaknesses, yet he had this resiliency to sign back up to go wholeheartedly for God. So the life of David is not the story of a man who never stumbled, but it is the story of a man who never quit. It is a man who would never ever let go of what God spoke over his heart and what God spoke about God’s own heart to him.*

*In Isaiah 55, God says that He will make a covenant with Israel. As Gentile believers—most of us here—we are grafted into that covenant. It is our covenant together; it is the commonwealth of Israel. Here is the intensity of the covenant: God says, in effect, “I am going to give you the sure mercies of David. The intense, extravagant, consistent mercy that David exemplified in the Word of God as receiving, needing and receiving—it is sure, it is consistent, it is extravagant—I promise you, all of you who are in covenant with Me through Jesus, that is the kind of mercy you can expect.” That is an amazing promise!*

*Verse 4, “For I have given David as a witness”—I have given him as a model of what I want My people to be like, what I want leadership to be like. He is a witness; what I did in Him and through Him is a model of what I want to do with others.*

*Psalm 86, David even understood that in his own time. He said, “Show me as a sign.” That is, show me as a picture of how far you will go with a weak man, how good you will be to somebody who has stumbled many times, for You have helped me. Show the people a picture of how good You are and how faithful and willing You are to help weak people.*

* + 1. David’s obedience and ministry is a “standard” of what God is seeking to establish in the earth.

15“I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with…understanding.”  
(Jer. 3:15)

25“You promised…David my father, saying, ‘You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, only if your sons…walk before Me as you have walked before Me.’” (1 Kgs. 8:25)

8“In that day the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David.” (Zech. 12:8)

*David’s obedience and his ministry is a standard in the Word of God. It is not the only standard; Jesus is the standard and the apostles are a standard concerning what God did with them. David was mentioned a number of times as a standard of what obedience looks like. Again he is not the only standard, yet is a picture of what God wants to establish in the earth.*

*Jeremiah 3:15 is one of my favorite verses for leadership in the generation in which the Lord returns. Here is what God promised. Now in context this is the people of God in the generation the Lord returns. God said, “I am going to give you shepherds after My own heart” or this translation says, “according to My own heart.” Now there is only one man whom God ever called the shepherd after His own heart and that was King David. He is saying here that what He is going to do is a work globally. He will raise up a large company of leaders who are after His own heart. Therefore we want to study the life of David so that we can feed the people on the understanding of God, like David fed the people on understanding. I want to encourage you to determine to see yourself in this promise, Jeremiah 3:15. I mean put your name on this promise. Say, “By the grace of God I will be a shepherd after God’s own heart.”*

*Now, that does not mean you are a full-time preacher; that is not what that means. There are tremendous shepherds in the kingdom who are leaders in the marketplace or serving in various ways out in the community. So this is not just about quote, “full-time pastors.” The verses after that in 1 Kings 8 suggest more that David is a standard of what obedience looked like. God promised, “If your sons only obey like you obeyed, then they are going to be on the throne all their days.” That is the standard: if they obey like you obeyed.*

*Now that is encouraging because David stumbled a whole bunch of times. I gave a message about thirty years ago called* ***The Ten Sins that David Stumbled In****. I have studied David’s life more in the last thirty years than I had then. I am about up to about fifteen of his sins I have found in the Word of God. So you should be encouraged that God says that even a weak person like you, if you obey like David obeyed, that is what He is asking for.*

*Then in Zechariah 12 He talks about raising up people who are going to be like David. Now He is talking about Israel in the end times when the nations are surrounding them. He says, “There is going to be people who have the courage and the power of the Holy Spirit that David had, even in a place of battle, when the nations surround Israel.” That is a remarkable that David is the standard in that context as well, even in the generation the Lord returns.*

1. how we will approach this course
   * 1. ***The biblical story***: We will look at David’s life in the context of what happened in his generation. The goal of this course is to familiarize you with the life of David to equip you to read it over and over with a spirit of devotion. More is written in the Bible about David than any other except Jesus.

*How we approach this course. We are going to look at it in four different ways. First, we want to know the biblical story. Again, there is more about David than any other person in the Bible besides Jesus. So there is a lot of information. God gave us this much with the intention of encouraging us and instructing us how to respond. My goal in this class and the twenty-eight sessions is that you would become familiar enough with this story that you would be able to read and understand it and that your heart moved by it as you read it on your own. If this is your first time through the life of David, many of the passages may be unfamiliar and you may not quite get what is going on. I believe that by the end of this course you are going to be equipped to be able to read it in just one sitting.*

*That is something I have done quite a few times over the years. On my day off I would take the entire day just to be alone with the Lord and read the whole life of David, 1 and 2 Samuel. You can do that in a number of hours. I remember when I used to travel quite a bit, when I was in my thirties, that whenever I went on a transatlantic flight I would always determine to read the whole life of David going and the whole life of David coming back. It would take about ten hours and always the attendants in the airplane would ask, “What are you doing?” That always opened up great doors.*

*Here is my point. I encourage you to take a day here and there, once you get familiar with this, to read the entire life of David at one time. I mean you can do it. I tell you when I got through doing that a number of times over the years, each time my heart would just be buzzing with faith and invigorated and my mind felt like renewed. So I want to encourage you, do not just take the course and move on. Take the course and get familiar with it so you can read the entire life of David, 1 Samuel 16 all the way through 2 Samuel. It is a tremendous way to spend a day; it really is. I encourage you to do that.*

* + 1. ***David, a type of Christ***: No one in the Scripture provides a greater picture of the ministry of Jesus.

*Second, the life of David has many pictures of Jesus’ ministry. He was a type of Christ, not in everything he did, but in many things. We get insight into Jesus’ ministry through understanding different aspects of David’s life.*

* + 1. ***Leadership lessons***: As we study various episodes of David’s life recorded in 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles, we gain insight into how God raises up leaders and how leaders are to respond to Him.

*Third, there are leadership lessons because God not only raised him up as a believer, but also as a leader of His people. He is a picture of what leadership looks like.*

* + 1. ***David’s heart response to God***: We can learn to respond to God rightly as David did in times of pressure, failure, and success, and in diligently pursuing God in the changing seasons of life.

*Finally, we want to study the life of David—we are going to make this application throughout the course—to know how to respond to God from our own hearts as individual believers in the way David did. David responded to God in his failure. He responded to God in his defeats, in his setbacks, in his victories. There is a very clear picture of how David responded. The Lord would say that is a picture of how He wants you to respond. Not just when it goes well, but when it goes badly. Not just when it goes badly, but when it goes well.*

*David responded in a remarkable way in times of blessing and promotion, in a way that is noteworthy in salvation history. One of the most compelling things about David’s life is the way he diligently pursued the Lord through all the various seasons of his life.*

* + 1. David was a student of God’s beauty—His glory (splendor), heart (emotions), wisdom, power, etc.

4One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple. (Ps. 27:4)

*Above all, David was a student of the beauty of God. This passage we are familiar with here at IHOPKC, Psalm 27:4, where he said, and here is the key phrase, “all the days of my life.” It does not mean he did not have a bad day, but he means through all the seasons, not just when I was young in Bible school, not just when I was old when I retired or whatever. All of the seasons, my twenties, my thirties, my forties, my fifties, my sixties, David could say, from my teen years all the days of my life I was a student of God’s beauty.*

*He describes himself in this passage as one who gazed on the Lord and one who asked the Lord many, many questions. He inquired and asked for God’s input and help in many aspects of his life.*

*As one who was a student of God’s beauty, he saw God’s beauty in creation. He could see the handiwork of the beauty of God when he looked up in the sky. He could see the beauty of God in his leadership over His people. He could see the beauty of God in the written Word of God and other ways as well.*

* + 1. What David saw about ***God’s heart***: David was a “theologian of God’s beauty and emotions”

*Let’s look at just four simple ways where he looked at the beauty. The reason I am giving this is so that you would apply this in your own life. Number one, David saw the beauty of what God’s heart was like in the way God thinks, the way God responds, the way God feels, the way God acts. I love to call David the theologian of God’s beauty. He was a student, and he was one of the premiere theologians of the beauty of God in the Bible.*

* + 1. What David saw about ***himself*** in God’s grace: as one delighted in by God (Ps. 18:19, 35)

*He did not stop there. David studied the beauty of God in terms of his own life, because the beauty that God possesses is the beauty He imparts to His people. So David saw himself through the lens of the grace of God. That is one of the great needs in the Body of Christ today: to see who we are in Christ through the lens of the grace of God. Beloved when we do that, and we understand even a little bit about His beauty, we see the beauty that God sees in us in redemption. It changes the way we think and feel about ourselves.*

* + 1. What David saw about ***others*** in God’s grace: excellent ones in whom God delights (Ps. 16:3)

*Number three, David saw the beauty of God in others. In weak and broken people, he could see the element of the dignity and the beauty of God in them. The reason he could see it in others is because he saw it in himself. The reason he saw it in himself is because he saw it in God because he was a student of the beauty of God.*

* + 1. What David saw in ***circumstances***: how he responded to pressure, failure, and success

*Then, number four, he saw God’s leadership in his circumstances. He saw God’s beauty and His kindness and His wisdom. These would be different dimensions of God’s beauty in the way that He responded in his circumstances.*

1. david: summary and historical context
   * 1. The life of David is a dramatic and inspiring story, with heroic virtue, scandal, power, etc. It is a must-read. The Bible tells us more about David’s life than any other except Jesus. The story of what happened *in David’s circumstances* is found 1 and 2 Samuel (beginning in 1 Samuel 16), while 1 Chronicles tells the same story in an abbreviated way. The dramatic account of what happened *in David’s heart* is found in the book of Psalms (he authored about 80 psalms; some say more).

*We are going to study key pieces of information that will help the study of the life of David. David’s life circumstances are found in 1 and 2 Samuel. That is where you read about the circumstances, what happened on the outside of David’s life. The book of Psalms is where we understand what happened in his heart. So in 1 and 2 Samuel we see what happened in his circumstances, and in the book of Psalms we see what happened in his heart. We are going to put the book of Psalms together with the story of 1 and 2 Samuel. David wrote about eighty psalms; there are 150 psalms, so he wrote over half of them. Some say he wrote as many as one hundred because for some of there is not certainty of authorship, but eighty for sure and maybe as much as a hundred.*

* + 1. Three prophets were prominent in David’s life: ***Samuel*** was much older than David; ***Gad*** was closer to David’s age (a peer; with him in the wilderness years); ***Nathan*** was much younger than David.

*There were three prominent prophets in David’s life. There was a much older prophet—Samuel—when David was a young man. There was Gad who was David’s peer; he was close to David’s age. Then there was Nathan when David was a seasoned king and older man. Nathan lived on after David died and served David’s son Solomon for a number of years. So he was a younger prophet.*

* + 1. David was the first “millennial theologian” in the Scripture, with insight into the Millennium.
    2. The historical context of David’s life with approximate dates:

4000 BC Adam and Eve

2000 BC Abraham

1500 BC Moses

**1000 BC David**

931 BC Civil war: the northern kingdom of Israel separated from the southern kingdom of Judah

900 BC Elijah and Elisha

721 BC Northern kingdom of Israel destroyed by Assyrians

586 BC Jerusalem destroyed, followed by Israel’s 70 years of captivity in Babylon (606-536 BC)

536 BC Jews returned to Jerusalem and started to rebuild the temple

*This is not a list of detailed dates. I just want to give you the feel of the storyline of redemption in the Bible. It is 4000 years BC—about 6,000 years ago, not exactly—Adam and Eve. 2,000 years after that is Abraham. A 1,000 years after that is David. You can see a couple of the other key events that happened in salvation history. I want you to understand that David is four or five hundred years after Moses. He is just before the civil war happened, because there was a very significant civil war that happened after David’s generation. Anyway I wanted to give you the few of those dates in a generalized way so you can fit David into the larger storyline.*

1. David: A man after God’s heart
   * 1. The first description of David that the Lord gave through Samuel to King Saul (1 Sam. 13:14) called David “a man after God’s own heart”—David was still in his teens. God knew the seeds that were in David’s heart. Moreover, the Lord knew the best journey for those seeds to mature in him.

14“The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander [leader] over His people.” (1 Sam. 13:14)

*Here is the first description that God gave of David in the Bible, the very first description. We do not know exactly how long this was before Samuel anointed David. Maybe this is four or five years before Samuel the prophet prophesied over young David. I am just guessing, because the details are not clear. I am guessing David was about seventeen—no one knows for sure, but about seventeen—when the prophet Samuel came to him.*

*So I am guessing this is four, five, six, seven years before that. What had happened was that Saul, the king of Israel, had fallen into sin, and Samuel said to Saul, “Thus says the Lord: I have chosen a man different than you. There is a man that I am going to raise up.” Here is what He said about that man; this is the first description of him. The Lord says in verse 14, “The Lord sought for Himself a man after His own heart.”*

*Now this is interesting; the Lord commanded him to be the leader. When God commands someone to be the leader that means that leadership position is going to be really hard. That is really what that means. He says, “David, this is non-negotiable.” This was never an ambition David had. This was a demand and a command of God over his life. When it got tough, he could not draw back and let go of it. The Lord would say, “No, I do not think you understand, David. This is non-negotiable.”*

*Beloved, all over the nations there are assignments in the kingdom that God gives some people by commanding them to that role. That is more than “Well, isn’t it nice, the Lord’s favor on you? You got a promotion and you are in leadership.” No! It means the assignment is going to be rigorous if it requires a command of God to go to it and to stay in it.*

*The other point I want to make here is that David was sought* ***for himself****. We see God’s zeal in this appointment. God went out of His way, so to speak, as He was searching for a man who would be according to His own heart. It says that He “sought for this man* ***for Himself****.” The Lord was saying to the prophet Samuel, “Samuel, this man is for Me first.” When the Lord calls you into leadership—and many of you have a leadership call—the Lord would say, “I want you to know I first called you for Me. I did not call you first for them. I did not call you first for you, for your ministry to get big and you to get prominent or have honor. No. I called you first for Me. Then I called you to be a blessing to them, and then yes there will be blessing that will touch you along with challenges and troubles as well.”*

*Well, God called David a man after His own heart. David was in his teens or he might have been twelve years old. Again, this is four or five, six years before he was anointed by Samuel at age seventeen or eighteen. He was just a boy, but God had already seen in that eleven, twelve, thirteen-year-old boy, the seeds. I mean this is remarkable. Here is the message in this: you do not have to wait until you are fully trained or fully into a position. Here is a ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen-year-old boy, and he is already responding to the Lord. God says, “I see seeds there, seeds of something that is going to be dear to me, something that I want to multiply, seeds in that heart that I can trust this young man, this boy, that when he matures with authority he will bring blessing to My people.”*

*You are reading this saying, “I want to be a shepherd after God’s own heart. Jeremiah 3:15. I want to be one of these men or women.” Again whether you are in the marketplace, whether you are in your home, your neighborhood, whatever assignment God has for you.*

Well, to be a person after God’s own heart, I have three short descriptions of that.

* + 1. *To obey the* ***commands*** *of God’s heart*: He set his heart to obey even after his failures.

*David was committed to obeying the commands of God’s heart. David, even in his youth, said, “I am going to obey.” Now he failed many times, but when David failed, he had a resolve to sign right back up to obey.*

*Beloved, God is looking for young people right now. He says, “I want those values. I want that spiritual DNA. I want the cement to dry in your heart”—using that analogy—“to where you are radical about obeying Me regardless what other young people are doing. You have set your heart that you are not going the way that many others are going, even many young people in the Church, many young people in the society. You are saying, ‘No. I am going to set my heart. I am a man after God’s own heart or a woman after God’s own heart.’” In your teens, in your twenties, in your eighties, it begins by first making a commitment to obey the commands of God’s heart.*

* + 1. *To study the* ***emotions*** *of God’s heart*: He focused on understanding God’s emotions.

*Number two, it involves being a student of the emotions of His heart. Again I call David a theologian of the beauty of God or a theologian of God’s emotions. He was a student of God’s emotions. He did not just obey. He searched out what God’s heart was like. Of course that was the reason he was so motivated to obey.*

* + 1. *To contend for the* ***purpose*** *of God’s heart*:to seek the fullness of God’s purpose for your life and generation. Find out what God is doing in your generation and throw yourself into it. God testified of David that he did “all” of God’s will and served His purpose (Acts 13:22, 36).

22“I have found David...a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.” (Acts 13:22)

36“David…served the purpose of God in his own generation.” (Acts 13:36, NASB)

*It is more than that. David was committed to the purpose of God for his life and for his generation. You know one preacher said, “Find out what God is doing in your generation, then throw yourself into it with abandonment.” Find out what He is doing in your generation and pay whatever price you have to pay. Throw yourself into it. Do not worry how many people are appreciating your commitment or even recognizing it.*

*David was in a little town, in Bethlehem. I call it the backside of the hills of Bethlehem, this little village way out in “Nowheresville,” this little town with nothing happening. I think of some of those little towns out in Texas somewhere, where they are about an hour’s drive from Walmart. They feel like life has passed them by, and there are only nine people in the church. That is the kind of town David lived in. God says, “Do not worry. My database is up-to-date. I can find you easily.”*

*So this is not an “obeying the purpose of God and searching out God so people recognize you and it looks like you are on the path to getting promoted somewhere.” The Lord says, “No, no. I see you. It counts no matter who does not see you. My database is completely up-to-date. I am watching you.”*

* + 1. David found his primary identity (his sense of value and success) in who he was in his relationship with God. He measured his success in life by how much he grew in grace, and by the measure to which he was empowered to walk in obedient love for God and meekness toward people.

*David’s primary identity, the core reality of David as a man after God’s own heart, was established in who he was in his relationship with God, instead of who he was in his relationship to people, meaning what he accomplished. Our natural way is to get our sense of value is based on who we are to other people and what we have accomplished. Our identity is our sense of value and success. The way you determine your value and your success is what it means by your identity. By nature we determine our value by how people recognize us and how people applaud or promote what we are doing. If people are applauding, then we are successful. If no one is applauding, we are a failure.*

*David was different. David found his sense of value in the fact he was relating to the God who loved him and the fact that he set his heart to love God in return. Therefore he knew he was successful on that basis. Thus he could have the ups and downs of life and still have a remarkable consistency when you look at his entire seventy years. Sure, he had dark moments of discouragement when they were trying to kill him. I mean he had 3,000 men trying to kill him; this is real. You know if we have three blogs against us we think, “Oh my goodness!” David had 3,000 men trying to kill him for about six, seven, eight years.*

*He had times of discouragement, saying, “Lord, I am just going to die; it is going to be over.” But overall in his life he determined he was valuable and successful based on his relationship with God. He measured his life not by how many people paid attention to what he did or responded to what he did. He measured his life by how much he grew in love and in meekness. That is how he measured his life. That was the key to his stability right there. If we measure our life by how much people respond to us, we are going to be in a whirlwind continually. It takes effort and determination to realign our soul to be a man or a woman after God’s own heart like David.*

* + 1. Scripture highlights David’s obedience, values, and skills as follows:

*Here I have ten values or character traits of David’s obedience, ten truths that are emphasized in his life. Now I am only going to talk about these for a moment. I wrote them here because I want you to look for these throughout the twenty-eight sessions; these will stick out above others.*

* + 1. ***Seeking God***: He longed to worship God and see His beauty (Ps 27:4; 18:1; 31:23; 36:8).

*Number one, all through David’s life we see this relentless desire to seek God.*

* + 1. ***Obedient love***: He had a deep resolve to love and obey God. He declared to God, *“I love you”* (Ps. 18:1). He is the only man who has that declaration specifically recorded in the Scripture.

*Number two, his resolve to obey, especially to obey with love, to obey as an expression of love, to love God with obedience. Again, when he failed, he signed back up quickly. It is interesting in Psalm 18 where David says, “I love You, God.” Some translations say, “I will love You.” Others say, “I love You, O Lord.” You know that is the only place in the Bible where a man is recorded in the Bible saying, “I love You, God.” It is remarkable to me! Now many people love God, but it is not on their lips. Even our most beloved John the Apostle! There is no verse where John said to Jesus, “I love You, God.” It only happens one time in the life of David. I just think that is remarkable.*

* + 1. ***Confidence in mercy***: He returned to God after his failure (Ps. 13:5; 18:19; 32; 38; 51; 69).

*His confidence in mercy that was so great that in the verse we looked at a few minutes ago in Isaiah 55, God said, “I will give you the sure mercies of David.” The mercies were so extravagant. They were so consistent. They were so reliable. David had this almost troubling confidence in the mercy of God.*

*When I first started reading the life of David, really giving myself to it, I was about eighteen years old. I heard a ten- or twenty-part series on the life of David, much like something like this. I had never heard much about David, so this was so exciting. I decided I am going to read this book. I am going to learn about this guy. The thing that bugged me the most about David was how much confidence he had in mercy. I mean David would sin and within the hour he was saying, “I love You, God! You love me!” like a first-class citizen with no spiritual probation at all. I would read that—I remember I was eighteen, nineteen, twenty-one— and I would think, “David, at least have enough decency to suffer for a few weeks at least!” He had this tremendous resiliency of confidence in the mercy of God. Now this is one of my favorite things, but when I was younger, I thought, “What?” I mean he ought to at least be depressed for a couple weeks over that one, you know. Put yourself on a little probation, David, spiritually speaking, but David would not.*

* + 1. ***Confidence in sovereignty***: God was his source of protection, promotion, and provision.

*Another thing that sticks out is David’s confidence in God as his source. When David was in need, the cry of his heart was often heard through the psalms, “God is going to breakthrough. He is going to protect me. He is going to provide. He is going to direct me. The invisible God will come through for me so that I would do His will.” Not come through for David for whatever he wanted, but in as much as it related to the will of God in David’s life.*

* + 1. ***Generous leadership style***: He showed kindness to his friends, co-workers, and enemies. He struggled with discouragement, yet we see no bitterness towards those who wronged him.

*Over and over we see David’s generous leadership style, his kindness to his friends—that is cool—to his coworkers, that is good. Even to his enemies, he had this kindness, this genuine generosity that is sometimes kind of hard to make sense of. I understand where it came from; it came from the sense of God’s generosity to him, and you will see that over and over.*

*A number of you are already in some kind of leadership or will be in future leadership, so observe this generous attitude towards people who mistreat you, people who slight you, people who completely write you off. David could be this generous because he saw God as his source, and he saw God as being generous to him. So he did not see his future in the hands of that guy that mistreated him. He saw his future in God’s hands.*

*When people do not have your destiny in their hands, but God does, you can take a step back and consider how generous God has been to you; that is the whole realm of the beauty of God. Seeing the beauty of it, David had a generosity towards people, instead of this natural human tendency of bitterness towards people who stand in our way and take things from us. David says, “You might take it from me, but you cannot keep what is mine in God from me so I am not that concerned about you. I bless you and let me help you get on to the next thing you are doing.” David meant it.*

* + 1. ***Zealous warrior***: He was a courageous man of war in pursuit of driving out God’s enemies.

*David was a zealous warrior. He never settled down to just “business as usual.” He always wanted to bring the purpose of God to the next dimension in his life. There were always more enemies that he was going to expose and expel from his life or from the kingdom through the grace of God. I mean there was never time where David said, “I have accomplished enough.” He was a warrior as a boy. To his dying day he was a warrior at heart.*

*Beloved, the Lord is raising up young people who have this zeal, this tenacity. I do not mean zeal by an extravert personality; that is not what I mean by zeal. I mean a tenacity not to draw back and let go, but rather keep pressing into the Lord.*

* + 1. ***Valued the Spirit’s ministry***: He did powerful exploits and functioned as a prophet.

*He valued the Holy Spirit’s ministry all of his days. He valued the power of God in his teens and to the very end, to see the supernatural dimension of God that takes contending for it, that takes believing for it. A lot of times it is easy to settle down, I am not going to press in for that, I am going to just do business as usual. David said, “No” to that.*

* + 1. ***Fasted lifestyle***: He was committed to prayer, fasting, the Scriptures (Ps. 19:7-11; 35:13; 69:7-12; 109:24; 145:1-21), and to building God’s house (2 Chr. 6:8; Ps. 132).

*We see his fasted lifestyle, his commitment to prayer, the Word of God, the Scriptures, building the house of God. I mean David went after this stuff. His meekness and integrity—when I say meekness, I mean his servant spirit—until the end he held his position to be a benefit to others, not just a benefit to people who liked him. Everyone is a benefit to the people that are helping them. He wanted to be a benefit to the kingdom even if he did not like some of the things happening in the kingdom. He wanted to have a servant spirit.*

* + 1. ***Meekness and integrity***: He lived with a servant spirit and “kept his word” even in private.

*When the Scripture says that David had integrity of heart, we see it meant when David made a commitment, whether men were watching him or not, David was faithful to do the things he said he would do. He followed through when no one was looking. That is to me one of the premiere definitions of integrity in the Sermon on the Mount, that what we say the small things we actually do them even if nobody catches us and nobody holds us accountable. We said it; therefore we do it. That is one of the premiere definitions of integrity in the Sermon on the Mount.*

* + 1. ***Prudent in speech***: He spoke with humility and godly wisdom.

*David learned to speak with grace, but it does not mean that he just agreed with everybody. He still confronted, he still gave direction, he still contended, he exposed, he took on things, but he had a graciousness to his speech. Beloved, that is learned over time, and that is a value that David really cared about. You are going to see these ten virtues or characteristics in David’s life over and over as we go through this course.*

1. rejection of Saul: THE context for David’s training to be king

*Let’s look at now for just the last few minutes at the context of David’s training. The context was a jealous, demonized king named King Saul. He was not always demonized, but he ended up demonized. That does not mean that he was always in a kind of out-of-control frenzy. It means that demons were deeply motivating him and energizing him in his agenda. It is important to understand the context in which God searched for a man. He said, “I found him and it is at the right time at the right place,” because this demonized king was going to be the seminary in which God raised David up.*

*You know a lot of people say, “I want to be like David.” Well, know this—I mean I want to be like David too—but David was trained in the seminary of Saul. It is good to go to Bible school, but your seminary training is going to have a few Sauls in it over the course of your life, where you are really mistreated. God raises up His Davids in that context. It was very deliberate.*

* + 1. Saul was rejected as king because of his sinful disobedience at Gilgal (1 Sam. 13) and with the Amalekites (1 Sam. 15). David and Saul are contrasting prototypes of good and bad leadership. Saul sinned at Gilgal (1 Sam. 13) by functioning as a priest and not obeying a direct command from God.

8“Go down before me to Gilgal…Seven days you shall wait, till I come to you.” (1 Sam. 10:8)

4Saul had attacked a garrison of the Philistines…the people were called together to Saul at Gilgal. 5Then the Philistines gathered together to fight with Israel…6The men of Israel saw that they were in danger…8Then he [Saul] waited seven days…But Samuel did not come to Gilgal…  
9So Saul said, “Bring a burnt offering…” And he offered the burnt offering. (1 Sam. 13:4-9)

*We are going to look at this very briefly and then you can read it more in detail on your own. I just want you to be a little bit familiar so when you are reading the story you think, “Oh, yeah, yeah. I remember that story, wow!” There are lots of details we will not cover in this course because it is only twenty-eight sessions over fourteen weeks.*

*There were two principle episodes in Saul’s life where God rejected him and Samuel the prophet pronounced it upon him. Most of you know Samuel was the aged prophet of whom it says that his prophetic words were so accurate that none of his words fell to the ground; every one of them came to pass. That is a whole other level of prophetic ministry when every single word he gave came to pass.*

*Well there are two different sins Saul committed. There was his sin at Gilgal, 1 Samuel 13, and his sin with the Amalekites, 1 Samuel 15. Then David comes on the scene in 1 Samuel 16. So understanding these two negative events in Saul’s life gives us insight into the kind of man God used to train David up and it gives us insight in to bad leadership, because David and Saul are both prototypes of leadership. Saul is the prototype of what bad leadership is and David is the prototype of what good leadership is. God wants us to see the contrast, the two extremes.*

*His sin at Gilgal is in 1 Samuel 13. One of the key points—and it is more than this—is that Samuel the prophet was also functioning as a priest in Israel. Samuel said, “Saul, there is a big battle coming up. I am going to come down to you in seven days and I will offer the sacrifices. Wait for me—thus says the Lord—wait for me. Obey the word of the Lord.” Remember this is not just a normal guy giving his prophetic word where you wonder if it is true or false. This is a guy that never, ever missed it ever. He said, “I command you by the word of the Lord wait for me.” That is number one.*

*Number two, Saul as a king could not function in the office of a priest. Now that is a bigger subject than we want to go into now, but kings could not function in the priestly office. Those offices did not combine; they were separated. God had His reasons, and there are quite a few examples in the Bible where God was very serious about the guidelines around the priestly ministry because it spoke about Jesus and God’s holiness. There is a whole lot to it. The reason I say all of that is so that when you read this story, you might think, “Man, he just offered a sacrifice and God was upset at him. Why? I mean it was a sacrifice to God.” There were very clear prophetic words and very clear boundaries around the priestly ministry, and kings were not to cross those boundaries in normal situations.*

*In 1 Samuel 13 the battle comes. Israel was being attacked by the Philistines, and the people were gathering to Saul at Gilgal. Saul was the commander of the army. He said, “All of you come to Gilgal. We are going to mobilize the army, and we are going to fight the Philistines.” The Philistines in verse 5 were gathering in great numbers, far bigger numbers than Saul had. So Saul was getting afraid, verse 6. The men of Israel were saying that they outnumbered, in danger, and being surrounded.*

*So verse 8, Saul looked right and he looked left and he said, “Well, where is the prophet at? I need the prophet to hurry up so we can give the sacrifice so we can get out of here.” He said, “I have waited seven days.” Now Samuel came at the end of the seven days, so this is probably the early part of the seventh day. Saul was afraid because the enemy was gathering and his people were scattering.*

*Beloved, when the enemy gathers and the people scatter, your leadership is being tested, because many times that is the test God gives. He says, “If the people are scattering and the enemy is gathering, will you obey Me or will you give way to what is expedient and just cast away My commands?” That is a real issue in the Church today. Are we going to stay true to God’s Word even if the people scatter and the enemy gather? Well, that is a test that David passed, but a test Saul would not pass.*

* + 1. The enemy gathered, the people scattered, and Saul did not obey the Lord, but yielded to pressure.

10As soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering…Samuel came…11And Samuel said, “What have you done?” Saul said, “When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, 12…Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering.” 13Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God…the Lord would have established your kingdom…14But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and…has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.” (1 Sam. 13:10-14)

* + 1. Saul was the kind of king who disregarded God’s commands when he was under pressure, and who sought the people’s favor more than obedience to God. His sin included serious violations of God’s commands related to the priestly ministry. Only priests were allowed to offer priestly sacrifices, and they were to offer them in ways specifically prescribed by the Lord (Lev. 6:8-13). To violate this was a sin against God’s holiness. King Uzziah was struck with leprosy for this (2 Chr. 26:19).

*As soon as he started offering the sacrifice, the king stepped over that boundary line he was not supposed to step over. He functioned as a priest. Again this was a serious issue. He disobeyed a direct prophetic word, directly from God’s voice.*

*Then Samuel came and said, verse 11, “What have you done?”*

*Saul said, “The people were scattering, and you did not come.” That is why my assumption is that it was the early part of the day and then at the end of the day Samuel arrived. So Saul, says, “The people were scattering. They were not appreciating my leadership. I know I was not supposed to do that, but the people were not happy, and I had to, you know. Come on, Prophet Samuel! Give me some grace here. You did not come within the appointed time”—verse 12—“so I felt compelled. I felt compelled to disobey the prophetic word and step across that boundary line and act like a priest. I know God said not to, but hey.”*

*Verse 13, the prophet Samuel said, “You are foolish. You disregarded the word of God. You stepped across a sacred boundary line that is sacred to God”—It was clear in that day that it was sacred—“You have not kept the command of God.” Verse 14, “Your kingdom”—in other words your kingship, your position as king—“is not going to continue.” Because, if under pressure of the people not liking what you are doing and you seeing the enemy increasing, you do what you want to do instead of the word of God, then you are not the kind of man the Lord says He want to be leader over His people. Samuel went on, “You have not kept His word. Therefore the Lord has searched for a man after His own heart.” That is that verse we looked at a few minutes ago. Again David was probably ten, twelve, thirteen years old over in Bethlehem. It was probably four, five, six, seven years before Samuel even met David. Nobody knows for sure.*

* + 1. Saul’s sin with the Amalekites (1 Sam. 15) was in failing to obey God’s command to execute judgment on God’s enemies (Amalekites). Saul was not zealous for that which God called sacred.

2“Thus 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.’”…7Saul attacked the Amalekites…8He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. 9But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good…But everything…worthless, that they utterly destroyed. (1 Sam. 15:2-9)

*We were in 1 Samuel 13; now we are in 1 Samuel 15. David comes on the scene in 1 Samuel 16. That will be next week when David comes on the scene; he will be on the scene next week, 1 Samuel 16.*

*Here, in the chapter before David is anointed, is the final issue in Saul’s leadership. In verse 2 The Lord said, “I am going to punish Amalek”—the Amalekites. He described why and it is a big story, so I do not want to break it down now in just a two-minute period here. Basically He said, “I am going to punish the Amalekites for something that happened with Moses back in Exodus 17. I promised I was going to punish them and I am going to punish them now in this generation.”*

*So Samuel the prophet gave word to that the king, and King Saul received it. Samuel went on in verse 3, “When you attack them, God’s help is going to be with you. God wants you to utterly destroy every residue of that nation. He wants it completely removed.” You see they were a nation that was deeply involved in demonic activity and all kinds of things.*

*So the Lord said, “I want this driven out of the land.” He basically said, “I know what I am doing, Saul. Make sure you do that. I want you to get rid of all the oxen, the sheep, everything. Everything is tainted. I want it all out of here.”*

*Now there was great wealth in the Amalekite camp. So in verse 7, Saul attacked and he won. He was victorious in the battle, but he took Agag the king alive. He was supposed to kill all of them, but maybe he was thinking, “If I keep Agag alive, I might use him to negotiate with other nations. He could be a real negotiation card in my political maneuvering with other hostile nations.” Verse 9, he spared Agag and he spared of the best of all the property and the animals. The stuff that was worth a lot of money. Saul was thinking, “Why should we get rid of it? I mean there is a lot of good livestock. I think there is a lot of money represented here.” He spared all that was good. Everything worthless he destroyed.*

* + 1. Saul swooped down on the spoil (v. 19) sparing the best things that were worth a lot of money.

10Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying, 11“I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me…” 13Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed are you of the Lord! I have performed the commandment of the Lord.” 14But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears…?” 15Saul said, “They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord your God…” 16Then Samuel said to Saul, “Be quiet! And I will tell you what the Lord said to me last night.” And he said to him, “Speak on.” 17So Samuel said, “When you were little in your own eyes…did not the Lord anoint you king over Israel? 18Now the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, ‘Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites…’ 19Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the Lord?” 20And Saul said to Samuel, “But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me…21But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things…to sacrifice to the Lord.” (1 Sam. 15:10-21)

*The prophet Samuel was somewhere else when this battle was happening. He was not right there in the setting. The word of the Lord, verse 10, came to the prophet Samuel. “Samuel, I greatly regret making this man king.” I mean this is a big statement for God. You look at that and you ask what does it mean? I think it means He greatly regretted it. That is as far as I go. He said, “Saul is turning back from following Me.”*

*I mean this is a heavy prophetic word. Can you imagine you are going to go to the president, the king of the nations and say, “Guess what? The God of Israel is really disappointed and deeply regrets your position, and He is removing you now just like we said a couple of years ago back in 1 Samuel 13.” I mean that is a heavy word for a prophet to bring to a king because the king has the army and could kill the prophet. Kings did that throughout Israel’s history.*

*So in verse 13, Samuel went to Saul. The prophet Samuel went to King Saul. King Saul said, “Samuel, bless you! Praise God, the victory was amazing. You should have been here. Everything we did worked out. God is with us. Man, thank you for coming and celebrating. I did everything”—look at verse 13—“that God told me to do. I did it all.”*

*Like really? Samuel had a really different view of it. Samuel said in verse 14, “What is the bleating of the sheep in my ears? If you killed all the animals, what is that baa?” I think that is how they do it, baa. “What is that? I am hearing that you spared them. God said to utterly destroy because God had reasons for that. It was important to the Lord.”*

*Saul answered, “Well, yeah, technically we did not kill them all. I mean it is worth a lot of money here, and we need the money to help the army. I mean it goes for the glory of God. Come on, those sheep did not do anything wrong.” Verse 15, King Saul said, “Well, we only kept the really good stuff. We are going to sacrifice to the Lord. I mean we are going to use it to the glory of God.”*

*I can picture the prophet Samuel’s face. He was unhappy. You are going to disobey God directly and then that on which God had pronounced judgment you are going to offer it to Him in love? Are you kidding me? Beloved, the ends do not justify the means. We know that.*

*Verse 15, Saul said, “I am going to sacrifice to the Lord.”*

*Samuel was saying, “Shut up!” Well, he said, “Be quiet.” He was nicer than that. He said, “I am going to tell you about the visitation I had last night about you.” Dramatic pause.*

*Saul was thinking, “God talked to you about me? Wow, and I just had a victory today?” King Saul leans in, “Speak on. Tell me more. You’ve got me waiting. I mean God talked to you about me last night?”*

*Samuel nods, “Yeah.” Verse 17, Samuel said, “Here is what He told me. When you were little in your own eyes, years ago when you were humble, when God first called you, when you were small in your eyes, you did not think you were a hotshot. You were humble. You had a servant heart, but you changed over the years.” Verse 18, “God sent you on a mission, He told you to destroy them all. He had His reasons; God had His good reasons.” Verse 19, “Why didn’t you obey? Why did you just blow off the Word of God?” Now the prophet revealed Saul’s motive. He said, “Why did you swoop down on the spoil?” This was about money; this was about covetousness. He said, “You swooped down to keep the good stuff so you could cash it out later.”*

*In verse 20, Saul got a little defensive. “What? I obeyed. I went on the mission that God told me. I went to battle. I was on a mission.”*

*God would say, “No, this was not the mission that was anchored back at Exodus 17, back with Moses 400, 500 years ago.” God had a plan for the Amalekite and now He was executing it.*

*But Saul said, “I did obey the Lord.” Then verse 21, he blame-shifted to the people. He said, “Well, technically it was the people who kept the good stuff worth all of the money.”*

* + 1. Saul persistently rebelled against God, so God looked for a “better” man to replace him (v. 28).   
       Saul repented only when caught whereas, David repented because he knew he had offended God.   
       The kingdom was torn from Saul “today” (v. 28), but David did not replace him as king until about 15 years later. Saul was about 55 years old at that time (he died at age 70). God knew the whole time that He would remove Saul, but He waited until David was ready to rule.

22So Samuel said: “Has the Lord as great delight in…sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice…23For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft… Because you rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.” 24Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. 25…please pardon my sin, and

return with me…” 26But Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.”…Saul seized the edge of his robe and it tore. 28Samuel said to him, “The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. (1 Sam. 15:22-28)

*In verse 22, Samuel the prophet said, “You are telling me the people kept the good stuff, the stuff worth a lot of money, to sacrifice it to God.” He went on, “Do you think God wants sacrifice more than obedience? You think you can disobey Him, and then offer it to Him as a gift, and somehow God is going to say, ‘Oh, that is their love for God’”? Samuel said, “No, He does not delight in your offerings; He delights in your obedience.”*

*In verse 23, he went on, “Your rebellion is like the sin of witchcraft” because we are not talking about a casual disregard of God. We see from King Saul’s life in the next chapters that he was murderer. He attempted and ordered murders and went on rages a number of times. He was a murderous man, he was a demonic man, he consulted the dead through the witches, and all those kinds of things.*

*So God says, “Your rebellion”—we are not talking about stumbling—“is as the sin of witchcraft.” That is, you are operating in the same spirit of darkness as witchcraft. The reason I give you caution on that verse is that I have heard or watched people who pull this out when somebody is stumbling or are having a hard time they and they say “Your rebellion is like witchcraft” and put them in the category of rebellion. I say that this is hardly the level of what King Saul was doing. That is a pretty intense verse there. Do not use it on your friend when they are having a hard month.*

*King Saul said, “Okay, I have sinned. I have sinned. Okay, I admit it. I feared the people.” Here we go again just like 1 Samuel 13! He said, “I feared the people. They wanted the money; there was a lot of cash represented in all of those animals and all those goods. You said to burn it all, all the clothing, all everything, all the tents, all the supplies. Just burn it all. But I feared the people, and I yielded to them. Okay, okay, I admit it. Forgive me. Return with me.” In other words, return with him because, if the king went back to the camp with the anointed prophet, that would give the king stature and authority. They would be together, the photo opt, before the whole army.*

*Verse 26, Samuel replied, in effect, “I am not returning with you to pretend I am in agreement with you! Are you kidding me?” He said, “God has rejected you.” Verse 28, “He has torn the kingdom from you today and he has given it to your neighbor”—there is a young man down the road. He did not say the young man because that is the next chapter, 1 Samuel 16—“a man who is better than you. God is giving your position to him.”*

*Now the strange part about this, verse 28, is that it says the kingdom “has been torn from you today.” But Saul did not die and lose his kingship for fifteen more years. He kept his position for fifteen more years, but he lost the anointing and the favor of God. So he had his position without the favor and blessing of God. It was torn from him and the anointing of the Spirit was on David, not on Saul, but Saul kept the position without the favor of God. His life was in torment after that, through those fifteen years. The nation had defeat after defeat. Beloved, to keep the position when God is not in the position and there is not favor, that is a prison and is itself a judgment of God.*

*Some people ask, “Why, if he repented? He said, ‘Samuel, I repent.’” No, no, Saul repented because he got caught. David repented when he offended God. David offended God and then repented. Saul would sin and, if nobody called him on it, he never repented. He only repented when he got caught. Again over the next fifteen years there were so many murderous, demonic things he did that God was proven as right, that his rebellion was entrenched at that time. Amen, let’s stand.*