

THE VALLEY OF THE OBSCURE & ORDINARY

1 SAMUEL 16 | ERIC SIMPSON | MAY 5, 2019



"The single most characteristic thing about David is God. David believed in God, thought about God, imagined God, addressed God, prayed to God. The largest part of David's existence wasn't David but God." - Eugene Peterson

Saul = 1st king of Israel, people's choice

David = 2nd king, God's choice

1 Samuel 16:6-7

⁶ When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD."⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

- **God gets His work done in this world through ordinary people.**

haqqaton (Hebrew) = ordinary, insignificant, obscure, nothing special

David's life is the basic biblical rebuke to the minimizing adjective "just."

"Somewhere around the midpoint of our lives, when we realize we are never going to find what the soul most craves, we resign ourselves merely to fulfilling the unremarkable requirements of life. At the end of an ordinary day at our ordinary jobs, we drive home to our ordinary homes. There the evening passes by, pretty much as we knew it would. We eat a meal, do the dishes, pay some bills, and fall asleep watching television. Then we go back to the same job the next morning. Or once again we shuttle the kids to school and soccer practice. Along the way, we realize we have succumbed to our greatest fear in life: We are stuck with ourselves. Then one day...we discover that God has come looking for us right where we are, in the ordinary places." - M. Craig Barnes

- **Keep your focus on *depth*, let God take care of *breadth*.**

"This is a skill every Christ-follower needs to cultivate: Finding God in the dark. Resting in God in the turmoil. Trusting in God in the teeth of catastrophe. Being restored by God when all earthly comforts fail." - Mark Buchanan