

## Getting Past the Cover

First Baptist Church and The Lakefront Church - Venice, Florida

One Church - Two Locations     March 8, 2026

**1 Samuel 13:14** (CSB), *but now your reign will not endure. The LORD has found a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not done what the LORD commanded.*

**1 Samuel 16** (NLT) *Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you which of his sons to anoint for me.*"<sup>4</sup>*So Samuel did as the Lord instructed. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town came trembling to meet him. "What's wrong?" they asked. "Do you come in peace?"*<sup>5</sup>*"Yes," Samuel replied. "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Purify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." Then Samuel performed the purification rite for Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice, too.*<sup>6</sup>*When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "Surely this is the Lord's anointed!"*<sup>7</sup>*But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."*<sup>8</sup>*Then Jesse told his son Abinadab to step forward and walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "This is not the one the Lord has chosen."*

<sup>9</sup>*Next Jesse summoned Shimea, but Samuel said, "Neither is this the one the Lord has chosen."*<sup>10</sup>*In the same way all seven of Jesse's sons were presented to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these."*<sup>11</sup>*Then Samuel asked, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse replied. "But he's out in the fields watching the sheep and goats." "Send for him at once," Samuel said. "We will not sit down to eat until he arrives."*<sup>12</sup>*So Jesse sent for him. He was dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes. And the Lord said, "This is the one; anoint him."*<sup>13</sup>*So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David from that day on.*

Samuel's first instinct was to look for a "Saul 2.0"—someone who looked the part of a leader. Here is what he saw:

### 1. Physical Appearance and "Vibe":

<sup>7</sup>*But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."*

2. Physical Stature and Height: When Samuel saw Eliab, Jesse's oldest, he immediately thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here." Eliab was likely tall and imposing.

3. Age and Seniority: Jesse presented his sons in order of age. Samuel expected the blessing to follow the birthright.

God said, 'A man after God's heart.' In other words, "Looking for a man like me!"

John 10:30 (CSB) *I and the Father are one.*

John 17:11(CSB) *I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by your name that you have given me, so that they may be one as we are (one).*

David was rejected by his father, yet he remained faithful by caring for and defending his father's sheep.

Matthew 5:16 (CSB) *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*

Matthew 7:21 *Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*

David had a "heart after God's own heart."

To the ancient Israelites, the heart was the command center of the entire person.

### 1. The Place of Thinking and Decision Making

Matthew 15:19-20a (CSB) *For from the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual immoralities, thefts, false testimonies, slander. <sup>20</sup> These are the things that defile a person;*

Romans 10:9 (CSB) *If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

### 2. The Place of the Will

Genesis 27:41 (CSB) *Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. And Esau determined in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob."*

The older brothers had the "will" to be kings for the sake of power. David had the "will" to be a shepherd for the sake of the sheep.

### 3. The Place of Courage

Psalms 31:24 (CSB) *Be strong, and let your heart be courageous, all you who put your hope in the Lord.*