

## **From Shepherd to King**

*The Story Ch.10 p.p. 145-160*

### **VIDEO:**

Go to <http://vimeo.com/album/1514042>

When prompted for a password enter: **TheStory** (case sensitive)

Find and watch the video titled "The Story For Groups Chapter 11"

### **Summary:**

It's all about the heart. David is chosen to be king and lives a life of faith and trust in God.

### **Think about:**

- Read 1 Samuel 16:7. What was God looking for regarding Israel's next king?
- What kind of heart do you think God wanted in a new king?
- God knew what was in David's heart, even if others did not. Others can only see the results of our hearts' cry, or evidence of what's inside. It wasn't long before God gave David an opportunity to prove his heart to others. David's initiation as a public servant takes place on a battlefield.
- Read 1 Samuel 17:10. What were Goliath's actions saying about his heart?
- Read on in verse 11 and also in 1 Samuel 17:24.
- What kind of heart did Saul's army show?
- Next we find Saul himself, the leader of the Israelite army. Saul at first tries to talk the boy out of such a feat. Then Saul tries to put his personal armor on the young man, which David refuses. Finally, Saul sends him forth with this blessing, "Go, and the LORD be with you."
- Do you think Saul is resigned to the situation? Or do you think he is sending David forth knowing that God will come through and not only take care of this disgusting Philistine, but protect the young shepherd boy?
- Read 1 Samuel 17:45-47. This mini-sermon by the young man who will later be called "a man after God's own heart" is showing his own heart in this passage. Does this sound like the work of a cocky, immature, overly-hormonal adolescent? Or does it sound like the expression of a deeply loyal, faith-filled servant of the Living God? What evidence of his heart do we see in his words?
- Of course we all know the way this battle ends. David said it best when he told the Philistine bully, "the battle is the LORD's." But this is only the start of David's walk of faith. His heart is tested often before he ever sits on the throne. Like David, our hearts are tested daily. We may not have to face a literal giant who taunts the loyal army of the living God. But we face little giants every day, and every day we make small choices that show where our heart loyalties lie.

### **Take away:**

Every trial in our lives will test our heart. Our sinful hearts may fail us, but the heart of Jesus is bigger than our failures and his grace far surpasses our puny achievements. In the midst of our failures, God is there to pick us up and give us His victory won by Jesus on the cross.

### **Prayer:**

Father, thank you for the example of heartfelt faith we see in your servant David. We know that David, like ourselves, was not perfect. But we also know that you called him a man after your own heart. May our hearts prove our loyalty to you. May we face each trial in our lives with a faith that will show us to be men and women after your own heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.