

*God Opens a Door*  
*1 Samuel 16:14-23*

INTRO:

The providence of God is a complex subject and a comforting reality. God, who is the Sovereign Ruler of all the universe, is also the choreographer of all the details of our lives. There is no such thing as an accident in the life of the child of God. Rather, the Father is working in our lives to ***“work all things together for good,” (Romans 8:28)*** and to make us into folks that He can use.

A part of this fascinating operation known as providence is whereby God opens and shuts doors of opportunity and of training. In the lives of King Saul and King-elect David we see very clearly this reality at work. Do you remember how at the right time some donkeys got lost in order to bring Saul to Samuel? Now let us consider together how our all-wise God worked out the details to bring a shepherd boy to the court of the king. David was about to begin his on the job training.

***I. Looking at Saul***

***II. Looking at Yahweh***

***III. Looking At David***

***I. Looking at Saul***

A. When we left last time we saw David anointed by Samuel, the Prophet, to be the next king in Israel. God confirms His anointing by sending His Spirit to abide upon David.

***“But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.” (1 Samuel 16:14)***

1. While David increased to the place of being king, Saul began his decline. Do you remember when Saul took his first step in becoming king by leading Israel against the Ammonites? We read in **I Samuel 11** how the Spirit of God rushed upon Saul. For all the years Saul had been king until the day that David was anointed, Saul enjoyed the divine ability from God’s Spirit to do his job. Now the Spirit of God was taken away and an evil spirit began to plague him.

2. As a rule, God the Holy Spirit had a different kind of ministry in the Old Testament than He has today. Today the Holy Spirit indwells every believer permanently.

***“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of***

***promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” (Ephesians 1:13–14)***

In the Old Testament, He only remained upon a believer for empowering to service.

B. Now there are a couple of things that arrest our attention. First, Saul gave no indication that he realized that the hand of God had been removed from his life. He did not know that the Spirit of God had departed. Samson was like Saul in this respect. We read in **Judges 16:20** when Samson woke after his locks were shorn, ***“He did not know that the LORD was departed from him.”*** Do we dwell close enough to our Lord that if we grieve His heart we are aware we have grieved the Holy Spirit and move quickly to correct the situation? May we be those who can quickly know if we have grieved the Spirit of God in our lives.

C. Second, Saul did not seek the LORD or Samuel His prophet when the troubling spirit came upon him. While Saul did not seek the LORD’s help, we need to be always seeking HIS help in difficulty. He is always ready to help us.

## ***II. Looking at Yahweh***

A. We have looked at Saul, the failing king. Now let us turn our attention to Yahweh, and His working behind the scenes.

1. Saul was in a difficult place. Yet, he was unwilling to seek out the prophet of the LORD. The king's servants make a suggestion to help Saul get help. **(v.15-16)**

***“And Saul’s servants said to him, “Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well.”***

2. Here is God working behind the scenes to pave the way for David to come to the palace and learn about being king. Notice, who immediately comes into the picture when this suggestion was accepted. **(v. 18)**

***“Then one of the servants answered and said, ‘Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him.’”***

How did this servant know of a shepherd boy like David? I don't know. Obviously, thinking of David in this context, a son too unimportant to be invited to Samuel’s feat is suddenly the first choice for royal musical counsellor. God worked out the details and put David in this man's mind.

B. God is a master at opening and closing doors for his servants. God is able to do this for us also. I look back in amazement at the opportunities and training that God gave me.

C. What do you think was going through Jesse's mind the day the King's servants showed up at his house?

### ***III. Looking At David***

A. We looked at Saul and our Lord, now we need to consider David. There are three things we can observe about David in this.

B. First, David was busy carrying out his duties when the Lord's call came. You think the King's beckon was a surprise to Jesse, can you imagine what David thought when they found him out caring for the sheep? David was busy doing what he was supposed to be doing in the place that he was when God's call came to change his job. The principle was stated by the Lord Jesus Himself in **Luke 16:10**.

***“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.”***

C. Second, David was willing to step into the unknown. Don't you think it was a wee bit scary for him to go to work for the most powerful man in Israel? Sometimes God calls us to leave the comfortable places we have known so well to go to places we've never been to do a job for Him.

D. Finally, David was patient. He was anointed to be the next king. Still, he did not come to the palace to find a way to kill Saul. He was loyal to the king and to his duties.

So, what do we learn from all this? Let me suggest three lessons.

1. Things aren't always what they appear on the surface. Often God is at work orchestrating the circumstances to accomplish His will in our lives.

2. God is still the master at opening and shutting doors. Let us ask God to help us to identify the doors He is opening for us and then let us boldly step through them confident that God will go with us through them.

3. Let us be busy about the job God has given us to do and wait for the Lord to work in our lives.