Mariner's DISCOVERY Church

OurMDC.org
(925) 354-1096
1641 Bixler Road,
Discovery Bay
California 94505

Program for Sunday, October 11, 2026.
Please welcome the worship music team this week!

Call to Worship: *My Jesus*
We Praise You

Announcements for Sunday 10/11/2026

Thanks for joining our Worship Service this Sunday

- **The Pool is available for your use. You can signup in the carport. During the week, please contact the office at 925-354-1096** to make a reservation. Since we don't have a life guard on duty a liability waiver form will need to be filled out and signed.
- **If you have any prayer requests,** please fill out a Connect Envelope and place it in the wooden offering boxes in the back. Also, during the week you can email requests at: **PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org**
- **PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org**

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Adoration *Great Are You Lord*
Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 16
Message: The Heart of David
Affirmation: *Can't Steal My Joy*

Close of Worship Service, Fellowship continues

1 Samuel 16:1 Now the Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have selected a king for Myself among his sons." 2 But Samuel said, "How can I go? When Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' 3 "You shall invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for Me the one whom I designate to you." 4 So Samuel did what the Lord said, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the city came trembling to meet him and said, "Do you come in peace?" 5 He said, "In peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." He also consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. 6 When they entered, he looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him." 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." 9 Next Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." 10 Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." 11 And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are these all the children?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and behold, he is tending the sheep." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here."
16:12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he." 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah.
14 Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord terrorized him. 15 Saul's servants then said to him, "Behold now, an evil spirit from God is terrorizing you. 16 "Let our lord now command your servants who are before you. Let them seek a man who is a skillful player on the harp; and it shall come about when the evil spirit from God is on you, that he shall play the harp with his hand, and you will be well." 17 So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me now a man who can play well and bring him to me." 18 Then one of the young men said, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who is a skillful musician, a mighty man of valor, a warrior, one prudent in speech, and a handsome man; and the Lord is with him." 19 So Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David who is with the flock." 20 Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread and a jug of wine and a young goat, and sent them to Saul by David his son. 21 Then David came to Saul and attended him; and Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor bearer. 22 Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David now stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight." 23 So it came about whenever the evil spirit from God came to Saul, David would take the harp and play it with his hand; and Saul would be refreshed and be well, and the evil spirit would depart from him.

Acts 13:21-22 Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. "After He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will.'

Devotional: **1 Corinthians 14:1** Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

Partial obedience is disobedience.

- The Command: Destroy the Amalekites.
    - The deeper issue was Amalek's persistently hostile rebellion against God.
        - This demonstrates 400 years of the patience of God.
        - Divine patience does not mean divine indifference.
        - God can delay judgment without abandoning justice.
- The Battle: Half-hearted "obedience" of Saul.
    - What Saul does right: he gathers 210,000 men (v4.); he sets and ambush (v5.); he protects the Kenites (v6.); he wins a sweeping victory from Havilah to Shur (v7.).
    - What Saul compromises: He takes Agag alive. He keeps the best of the livestock alive. Saul and the people treated the command of God like a menu of suggestions.
- The Cover-up: The stubborn rebellion of Saul.
    - Saul goes to Mt Carmel and set up a monument **for himself.**
    - Pious language. Blame-shifting. Spiritualizing the sin. Denial. Sorrow over getting caught.
    - Concern is not restoration but public embarrassment.
- The Fallout: Beginning of the end of Saul's kingdom.
    - The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to your neighbor who is better than you.
    - Samuel grieves. Saul unravels. Samuel and Saul do not see each other again.

The Anatomy of disobedience

- If you have been drifting, now is the moment to turn. God is not in a hurry to judge you. God is in a hurry to have you come back.
- What "small compromises" in your life, if left unchecked, could become the beginning of a larger unraveling?
    - What is the next right step in dealing with it?
- How do you respond when you see a believer drifting (grieve and pray or judge and withdraw)? Can you pray for that person and consider a gentle loving, truthful word for them?
- Today is the day you can stop building your own kingdom for your own salvation and come to the true King, if you have never trusted Jesus Christ.
- If there is "bleating," (not-so-hidden) disobedience, come out of hiding and bring it to the cross. Repent and rest in the finished work of Jesus.
- Is there an element with you can identify: partial obedience, greed, estrangement, inability, exposure)?
- How can the obedience of Christ change the way that you approach your own failures?
- Do you try to earn forgiveness or receive it?

- When God exposes sin in your life, what is your first instinctual response: defend, blame, hide, or confess?
- Is there a "swooping on the spoil," a desire that is leading you toward compromise? Is there a Barnabas with whom you can work to help you fight it?

Theological truths:

1. God is holy, and therefore sin cannot ultimately escape His judgment.
2. God's judgments belong to God; we must not presume His unique authority for ourselves.
3. God requires obedience, not religious substitutes for obedience.
4. Partial obedience is still disobedience when God has clearly spoken.
5. Our hope is ultimately not in our obedience but in the perfect obedience and saving work of Jesus Christ.

Refection question: "Where am I doing what Saul did; knowing what God has said, but selectively obeying when His Word conflicts with my desires, reputation, convenience, or fear of people?"

Theological implications:

- The word of God demands total obedience.
    - Partial obedience is disobedience.
- True worship is submission first, ritual second.
    - Do not let religious activity be a mask for rebellion.
- The anatomy of sin: Disobedience flows from pride, greed, fear of others. This is followed by blame-shifting, self deception, and false repetence.
- God is Holy and Just. The judge of all the earth does right. His patience is long, but it is not endless.
- God is sovereign and His character is unchanging.
- The purposes of God cannot be thwarted by human failure.
- Saul who was a king who attempted to set up his kingdom against the kingdom of God. There will be a King of Kings who obeys perfectly.
- There is true repentance and there is counterfeit repentance.
- The disobedience of King Saul is contrasted to the complete and perfect obedience of Jesus Christ.
- The judgments of God are real, discriminating and tied to His mercy. This is best seen in the cross of Jesus Christ.

Takeaways:

- Selective obedience is a besetting sin. It is easy, convenient, and we rationalize away the cost to us.
- It is also wrong to use religious activity as a cover unrepentant sin.
- Especially today, it is tempting to perform "image management" to cover unrepentant sin.
- Fear of others when it is greater than our fear of God can cause us to compromise.
- We need to kill the sin, before it kills us (Sparing the "Agags" in our lives [our favorite sins] is the contemporary for of the failure of Saul.
- Repentance has the hallmark of sorrow about the wrong and hurt we have cause, rather than being sorry that we got caught or sorry about the consequences of getting caught.

The LORD sends Samuel to anoint a new king (16:1-5)

- God rebukes the Samuel's mourning of Saul (16:1).
    - Not rebuked as if grieving is sin.
    - Grief that is not eventually surrendered to God becomes a place where we stop living.
    - God's answer to grief is not a lecture; it is a task.
- Samuel fears Saul's reaction (16:2).
    - The text does not hide the fear of the great prophet.
    - Obedience is faith that walks through fear.
    - God responds with a reasonable plan (Go make a sacrifice).
- Samuel obeys and travels to Bethlehem (16:3-4).
    - God promises that He will show Samuel what to do. God does not give the whole map. Samuel obeys in secret.
    - Elders tremble at the presence of the prophet of God. Guilty conscience?
- Samuel consecrates Jesse and his sons (16:5)
    - God's people are called to prepare before…
- Have you been in mourning so long that you have stopped hearing God's next instruction? God has already seen your next chapter.
- Can you name the item of grief with God and release it to Him?
- If you have been disobeying out of fear, and you know what God has asked you to do (forgive, confess, speak, serve, give, leave, or stay), bring it to the cross and identify the next step of obedience and do that.
- If you are afraid of a next step between you and God, can you choose one act of obedience that you have been postponing and complete it within a week; maybe asking a trusted believer to pray with you?
- Have there been areas in your life of partial obedience that need your attention and commitment?
- Is there an action step that you can add to better prepare you before you meet God?

God rejects Jesse's older sons (16:6-10)

- Samuel assumes Eliab is the LORD's choice (16:6).
    - Samuel does what Israel did in picking based on appearance.
- God's foundational principle: He looks at the heart (16:7)
    - Humans see appearance. LORD sees the heart.
    - Heart is the control center of the person: thoughts, desires, loyalties, and will.
        - Proverbs 4:23 Watch over your heart with all diligence,
          For from it flow the springs of life.
        - Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is more deceitful than all else
          And is desperately sick;
          Who can understand it?"
        - God sees the heart. God sees the sin we hide, and the motives we disguise.
- Jesse's sons pass before Samuel (16:8-10). Parade continues.

- If Samuel can be fooled by outward appearance, so can I.
- Is my life online a curated picture that is not an authentic portrayal of me?
- Can I come to the cross and be honest, knowing that my heart which could not pass the test is covered by the test that did?
- Can I bring my secret sin into the light of God today and confess it and experience His forgiveness (1 John 1:9)?
- In what ways am I passing judgment as I evaluate people based on what I see (appearance, platform, performance) than on character?
- Can I pray Psalm 139:23-24 every day?

David is chosen and anointed (16:11-13)

- David was not initially included (16:11).
    - David was overlooked in his own family.
    - The whole feast has to wait for the one who was left in the field.
- David's appearance and God's choice (16:12).
    - David's reputation vs. 18: Skillful musician, mighty man of valor, a warrior, prudent in speech, handsome, LORD is with him.
- Samuel anoints David (16:13).
    - The oil marks David as the LORD's anointed (one set apart).
    - The Spirit was the power. When God calls us to a work, God gives us what we need for it.
    - Then: Samuel returns to Ramah. David goes back to tend sheep (training ground for the throne). Ordinary Tuesday.
- If you have ever felt overlooked, forgotten, or passed over, please hear God say today, "I see you." Come and lay your hurt before Him.
- If you are a servant in obscurity, be faithful in the field, for the LORD sees.
- Jesus Christ came, despised, and rejected by people, and died for sinners. He rose and now gives the Holy Spirit to all who repent and believe.
- Is there a place where you have been overlooked by people but valued by God?
- Is there a "field" in which God has placed you? How might He be preparing you in it?
- How can we seek out the overlooked and those that are faithful in the field?

The Spirit departs from Saul (16:14-16)

- The Spirit of the LORD leaves Saul (16:14).
    - Saul is still king, still commands the army. But everything has changed.
    - He has the title without the Spirit, the position without the presence.
    - Tormented by an evil Spirit permitted by God as judgment.
- Saul's servants recommend music (16:15-16).
    - God uses the humble advice of anonymous servants to move David into the palace.
- If you or someone you know has been going through the motions, can you repent, and confess today?

- If you are in a season of darkness, can you reach out to a mature believer for prayer, encouragement, and guidance?
- Are there "servants" placed by God in your life to give you advice?
- What alarms can you place in your life to restrain you from a hollow religion rather than a dynamic relationship with God?
- Seek help. Do not wait until something becomes a crisis. Talk with an experienced professional or mature believer. Encourage others to do the same.

David enters Saul's service (16:23)

- Saul requests a skilled harp player (16:17).
    - Saul does not that he is requesting his own successor.
    - God's purposes ride on ordinary requests.
- David is recommended (16:18)
    - 6-fold list, "LORD is with him" is the foundation for the other 5.
- Jesse sends David to Saul (16:19-20)
    - David forgotten at the family feast now being sent to the king with a gift.
    - David does not boast about being the future king. He brings bread.
    - David serves. The God Who anointed him is the God Who will exalt him.
- David serves Saul and finds favor (16:21-22).
    - Armor bearer is trusted person, inner circle, learning the court, army, ways of rule. Saul is training his successor. Providence of God.
- David's music brings relief (16:23).
    - Music of a Spirit-filled man, played in God's providence, bringing temporary relief to a tormented king. Saul needs repentance, not a melody.
- If you are a believer, Jesus Christ is with you, whether you are in a field or palace. Can you trust that He has you in that place for His purpose?
- In that place, can you offer your time, talents, and/ or treasure in service to Him and let Him use them to refresh the weary?
- In what areas in your life have you seen God use "ordinary" people and events to move you to where He wanted you? Where do you see His providence?
- David served Saul faithfully, through he knew he was God's choice for king. What does this show about humility and waiting on God's timing?
- Can you trust providence and serve where you are placed?

Another view for our text: 1 Samuel 16

- Just as 1 Samuel 8,9 are a hinge point from Prophets and Judges to kings, so 1 Samuel 16 is the beginning of the end of the reign of the king that Israel wanted, and the beginning of the rise of David (the king that God chose).
- There are two passages next to each other for contrast:
    - First Passage; 1 Samuel 16:1-13 The Spirit of the LORD comes upon David, a hidden shepherd boy, in a private anointing in Bethlehem.
    - Second passage; 1 Samuel 16:14-23 The Spirit of the LORD departs from Saul, who is still on the throne and publicly crowned but inwardly abandoned.

- Certain words act as signposts in 1 Samuel 16
    - **See/ Look:** God provides (seen), Samuel looked at Eliab. Core idea: Humans look at the outward appearance. God looks at the heart.
    - **Send:** The LORD sends Samuel, Jesse Sends David with Gifts, Saul sends messengers to Jesse. Every human activity in sending is carried within the larger sending of God.
    - **Spirit:** The Spirit of the LORD comes mightily upon David and departs from Saul.

Theological truths:

1. God is sovereign in electing and installing His king.
2. God evaluates the heart.
3. The conditions of leadership: Character over image.
4. The Spirit's presence, empowerment, and departure.
5. God is sovereign over evil and over suffering.
6. God's Providence in ordinary means.
7. Faith is demonstrated in obedience that moves through fear.
8. Connections to Jesus Christ:

Bethlehem.	The Anointed One.
The Shepherd-King.	The true heart.
Overlooked, Despised.	The Lion of Judah.

David, a man after God's heart (Acts 13:21-22)

- Saul: Tall, handsome, Militarily capable, popular.
- Saul: Unlawful sacrifice, Spared Amalekite livestock, prioritized public approval over obedience to God. Removed by God.
- David: Young, shepherd, not from prominent position.
- David: High point of united monarchy. Promised line through which the Messiah would come. Raised up by God.
- "A man after My heart"
    - Not sinless, perfect, free from major failure (adultery, deception, murder).
- David's deepest desire was alignment with the purposes of God.
- David had a fundamental submission and responsiveness to God.
    - That is the primary difference between David and Saul.

You are not alone. God is with you! MDC wants to help. We are here for you.

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