A Shepherd in Bethlehem

Bible passage: 1 Samuel 16:1–11; 17:12–15

Before David stood before Goliath, he cared for sheep near Bethlehem. His father was Jesse, and David was the youngest of eight sons. Three of his older brothers would serve in King Saul’s army. David’s work took him out with his father’s flock.

One day God sent the prophet Samuel to Jesse’s home. Saul had disobeyed God, and God had chosen another king from Jesse’s sons. Samuel saw Eliab and thought he looked like the right man. But God told Samuel not to judge by a person’s face or height. God looked at the heart.

Seven sons came before Samuel, but God had not chosen them. Samuel asked whether Jesse had any more children. Jesse told him that the youngest was still keeping the sheep. Samuel sent for David. The young shepherd had not been forgotten by God.

People may notice who looks strong or important. God knows far more than we can see. Even work done quietly, away from a crowd, matters to Him.

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1 Samuel 16:11

And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

Talk About It

1. Where was David when Samuel asked for him?
2. What does God know about a person that we cannot see?

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