

March 30, 2014—Christ Church Anglican

My Choices Are Forming the Person I Am Becoming

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The story of Saul and David is
... a story about two kings
... a story about the heart
... a story about making decisions

The heart is the core ... the seat ... the essence of our humanity. The heart is the source of our choices. We have the power, the freedom, to choose. God has given this to us. He will not interfere with our choices.

But we don't have the freedom to avoid the consequences of our choices. So my decisions as to how I am going to choose are critically important.

Two kings:

One king, Saul—God rejected.
Another king, David—God chose.
What was the difference? God saw what was in their hearts.

What is in our heart will be expressed in the choices we make.

The choices we make will determine our life path.
Through our choices each of us is becoming the person that we will ultimately be.

What has happened/is happening to me is not the most important thing in my life. How I choose to respond is. How I choose to respond is what is forming the person I am becoming.

Why did God reject Saul? Because he acted in self-will.

1 Samuel 13:8-14—"You have acted foolishly."

When I think of acting in self-will, the years 1980-1984 come before me—a time when my own life was characterized by self-will.

Saul acted in self-will and experienced the consequences. The consequences of acting in self-will are very bitter. We don't want them!

Why did God choose David? Outwardly he seemed least qualified. Three reasons:

1 - **David chose to respond to life crises by relying on God.**

1 Samuel 17:32-37—David and Goliath

What choices are we going to make when confronted with life crises? Our choices/ hearts can be formed. "Formation" is the process of shaping of the heart, of giving it a certain character. The heart can be prepared to respond by relying on God when crises present themselves. David had learned this.

2 - **David chose not to take matters into his own hands.**

1 Samuel 24:1-6—David would not raise his hand against the Lord's anointed. He would not take matters into his own hands. He left the outcome to God.

3 - **David faced and acknowledged his sin.**

2 Samuel 12:13—"I have sinned against the Lord."

David faced and acknowledged his sin. God forgave him. But David had to live with the consequences of his sin/choices.

The Son of God is saying to us, "Bring your sins to me on the cross."

2 Samuel 5:1-5—David waited. God established him as king—in God's way and God's time.

Choose to go deep with God: This is how we prepare now for the life crises that are to come.