



## Part 15 - "God Moves the Story Forward" | 1 Samuel 16:1-13 | March 8th, 2026

→ **Consider this:** How long is long enough to grieve?

→ **Samuel grieved for Saul — 1 Samuel 15:35**

- (v11) Samuel stayed up all night crying out to the LORD
- (v35a) Samuel never went to Saul again
- Saul's failure marked the end of an era in Israel's story

→ **God grieves over sin**

- (1 Samuel 15:35b) The LORD "regretted" = God grieves over sin (Gen. 6:5–6)

→ **When the LORD grieves, that signals He's about to act — 1 Samuel 16**

- God never leaves the story in grief — He moves His purposes forward
- In most places where God asks "How long?" He's confronting sin
- Samuel is not sinning. God's question reveals fear in his grief
- **Fear often enters during our most vulnerable moments**
- (1 Samuel 16:1–2) Samuel fears Saul might kill him
- God responds: "I will show you what to do" (v3)

→ **Samuel chose trust over fear — 1 Samuel 16**

- (v4a) The text simply says, "Samuel did what the LORD said."
- Obedience moved the story forward toward what God was preparing next

### → The LORD looks at the heart — 1 Samuel 16:6–10

- (v7) God reminded Samuel that the LORD looks at the heart
- This echoes Samuel's earlier statement that the LORD would seek a man after His own heart (1 Samuel 13)
- **God saw something in David that no one else could see — his heart**

### → But if God is looking at the heart, what kind of heart is He looking for?

- James describes true devotion to God as caring for the vulnerable and remaining unstained by the world (James 1:27)
- This teaching is a litmus test for the kind of heart that belongs to God
- James 1:27 - "**religion**" (Greek) = "**worship**"

→ **Consider This — God moves His story forward through people who trust Him, even when they can't see what He's preparing.**

### → Going Deeper:

- Read 1 Samuel 16:1–7. How does Samuel's fear reveal the tension between grief, uncertainty, and trust in God?
- Read James 1:27. How does James describe the kind of heart that reflects genuine devotion to God?
- Read Romans 12:1–2. What does it look like for everyday actions to become acts of worship?
- In what ways is God inviting you to move forward with Him?