

**Episode:** Other Letters Series No. 05

**Narrator:** David

**Primary Scriptures:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13

**Story Summary:** How valuable is the Bible?

**Location:** Israel

**Time:** circa 1000 AD

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** 1 Samuel 16:13

David is one of the most well-known of all Bible characters but there is much about him that is not known. The Bible introduces David in 1 Samuel 16:1-13. The prophet Samuel has been instructed by God to go to the house of David's father to anoint one of the sons as a future replacement for King Saul. After a fruitless interview of Jesse's first seven sons, the eighth son is summoned to appear from tending the sheep.

Apparently, David is so insignificant that his usual location is out with the sheep rather than with his older brothers. It is possible that his father neglected to teach David much about the scriptures. From David's later life, it is clear that he has a special love of God, but it is not clear he has a solid knowledge of the Scriptures. In fact, when King David later tries to move the Arc of the Covenant to Jerusalem, he does not seem to know how it should be done.<sup>1</sup>

At that time in his life, David had personal knowledge of God from his observations of nature and a relationship with God through his prayer life. What he likely needed was more specific knowledge that can be gained through reading and studying the Scriptures.

One way to think of the Bible is as a treasure map. You start wherever you are, follow the Bible and you find how to become a follower of God. If you do follow the map, you will surely find the treasure. As God said, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all of your heart."<sup>2</sup> If you don't follow it then you are on your own and will not find the treasure.

The writers of the Bible are incredibly forthright in describing how hard it is to follow the treasure map. The ones who reach the treasure are always faithful and overcome the obstacles in their way. They realize the incomparable value of belonging to God and are willing to pay the price. However, In the Parable of the Sower<sup>3</sup>, Jesus describes some of the types of people who are not able to reach the treasure: those who do not understand the teachings of Jesus, those who follow the teachings of Jesus for a while but quit doing so when times get hard, and who are worried about daily cares or chase after wealth.

Jesus told this little story: "The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."<sup>4</sup> A relationship with God is of great value and is worth doing whatever it takes to attain.

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Samuel 6

<sup>2</sup> Jeremiah 29:13

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 13:19-22

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 13:45