



***“Playing to Your Strengths”***  
***1 Samuel 16:14-23***

God has given each of us our own unique abilities. He also provides times when we can use them to help others. When the people we help are those we like, that is easy to do. When they are people with whom we struggle, it becomes more challenging. Many times it is with those people where we are made into healthier disciples.

**KEY VERSE:** *“Let our lord command his servants to here to search for someone to play the harp. He will play when the evil spirit comes upon you, and you will feel better.” (1 Samuel 16:16)*

With what type of person is it easiest for you to be around? What hobbies, interests etc. do you share with them?

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Read *1 Samuel 16:14-23*.

What is the first thought you have in reading through this passage?  
What words/ phrases stand out to you?

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Saul is a tragic figure in this story. He has started out much like David, looking out for livestock. (*1 Samuel 10*) He starts off strong, but very quickly his true character shows through (*1 Samuel 11-13*), and as such the kingdom is taken from him.

David has been anointed king. He has gone back to his sheep, and now is called upon to serve this failed leader.

What struggles do you think David may have had being put in this position? How would they compare with your own struggles?

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One of the first things God wants to work on is my heart in making me a disciple.

Read *Luke 6:27-31*. What heart attributes does Jesus want to instill in his disciples?

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Humility is hard for anyone, especially when we need to practice it with people we don't necessarily like or respect. Read *Philippians 2:3; Mark 9:35* and *Luke 14:11*. How hard is it for me to practice humility with people I like? People I don't like? What needs to change in my heart?

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Disciple making for God often happens when he puts me in relationship with people and situations that annoy, irritate, frustrate, and disappoint me the most. Does such a person come to mind?

- How is my heart towards that person?
- How would God have me use the gifts he has given me to help that person thrive?
- How would God have me pour strength into their life as he has in mine?