

# 1 Samuel 16:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**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.**

David's absence from the ceremony reveals his marginal status within his own family - assigned to menial labor while his brothers participated in sacred rituals. The Hebrew qatan (youngest/smallest) emphasizes both age and social standing. Samuel's insistence 'we will not sit down till he come hither' introduced urgency and elevated the overlooked son to center stage. God's pattern of choosing the least likely candidate - Abel over Cain, Isaac over Ishmael, Jacob over Esau - reaches its clearest expression.

## Historical Context

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Shepherding, while essential, was considered lowly work often assigned to youngest sons or hired servants. The sheep's isolation in wilderness areas meant extended absence from family and community life. David's separation from the sacrificial gathering may reflect his status as an afterthought in family affairs.

## Related Passages

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## James 2:17 — Faith and works

## Study Questions

1. Who in your community might be overlooked for significant service despite genuine faithfulness?
2. How does David's initial exclusion encourage those who feel marginalized or undervalued?

## Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר בְּנָצְרָבִים בְּתַתְמֹא לְאַל יְשִׁי בְּתַתְמוֹ אֶל שְׁמֹואֵל וַיֹּאמֶר

And he said And Samuel H413 unto Jesse Are here all thy children And he said

הִנֵּה מִזְמֹר לְבָנָיו הַמְּלֵאָה הַמְּלֵאָה הַמְּלֵאָה

הַמְּלֵאָה הַמְּלֵאָה הַמְּלֵאָה

וְאֵת שָׁאֵר | בְּקַטִּים הַיְהִי רַעַת הַיְהִי רַעַת  
H5750 **There remaineth** H2009 **and behold he keepeth**  
H7604 H5006 H7462

בְּאֵן	וַיֹּאמֶר	לֹא	שָׁמֹאֵל	וְיִשְׁלַח	הַ	וְיִקְרַב	כִּי
the sheep	And he said	And Samuel	H413	unto Jesse	Send	and fetch	H3588
H6620	H550	H8050		H3448	H7071	H3047	

לֹא	בָּא	פָּה	בָּא	עַד	תָּא	לֹא
H3808	him for we will not sit down	Heb 12:17	H5704	till he come	Heb 12:18	hither

## Additional Cross-References

**2 Samuel 7:8** (Parallel theme): Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel:

**1 Chronicles 17:7** (Parallel theme): Now therefore thus shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepridge, even from following the sheep, that thou shouldest be ruler over my people Israel:

**1 Samuel 17:28** (Parallel theme): And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

**2 Samuel 13:3** (Parallel theme): But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab was a very subtil man.