**Lesson 18  
1 Samuel 16:14-23**

**b. David as Saul's musician (**[**16:14-23**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+16%3A14-23)**)**

[16:14-23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+16%3A14-23). As David was invested by the Spirit, that same **Spirit** left **Saul.** This is evidence of the fact that the presence or absence of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament says nothing about salvation but only that His power worked in those whom God selected for service (cf. [Judges 3:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+3%3A10); [6:34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+6%3A34); [13:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+13%3A25); [14:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+14%3A6); [1 Sam. 10:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+10%3A10); [16:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+16%3A13)).

With the departure of the Spirit of God, *Saul became* ***tormented*** *by* ***an evil spirit*** *which* ***God*** *permitted to come* ([v. 14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+16%3A14); cf. [vv. 15-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+16%3A15-16); [18:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A10); [19:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+19%3A9)). Whether this spirit had sinful or only harmful characteristics, it is quite certain that it was a demonic, satanic instrument (cf. [Job 1:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+1%3A12); [2:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+2%3A6); [1 Kings 22:19-22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ki+22%3A19-22)). In his troubled state Saul could find relief only in music, so he commanded that a musician be found ([1 Sam. 16:15-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+16%3A15-17)). In His providence God arranged that **David** be the one, so the shepherd boy was introduced to the palace of the king ([vv. 18-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+16%3A18-21)). The Holy Spirit empowered **David** to drive away **the evil spirit** that overwhelmed **Saul** ([v. 23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+16%3A23)). Harps had already been mentioned in connection with prophesying ([10:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+10%3A5)). Later Elisha, when seeking a revelation from the Lord, also requested that a harp be played ([2 Kings 3:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+3%3A15)). Also Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun prophesied with harps, lyres, and cymbals ([1 Chron. 25:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ch+25%3A1)).

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

**1 Samuel 16:14-23 (NASB)**   
14  Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him.   
15  Saul's servants then said to him, "Behold now, an evil spirit from God is terrorizing you.   
16  "Let our lord now command your servants who are before you. Let them seek a man who is a skillful player on the harp; and it shall come about when the evil spirit from God is on you, that he shall play *the harp* with his hand, and you will be well."   
17  So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me now a man who can play well and bring *him* to me."   
18  Then one of the young men said, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who is a skillful musician, a mighty man of valor, a warrior, one prudent in speech, and a handsome man; and the LORD is with him."   
19  So Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David who is with the flock."   
20  Jesse took a donkey *loaded with* bread and a jug of wine and a young goat, and sent *them* to Saul by David his son.   
21  Then David came to Saul and attended him; and Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor bearer.   
22  Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David now stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight."   
23  So it came about whenever the *evil* spirit from God came to Saul, David would take the harp and play *it* with his hand; and Saul would be refreshed and be well, and the evil spirit would depart from him.

**Open it**

1. What work of art (song, picture, book, movie, etc.) is sure to put you in a better mood when you’re feeling low?   
 **I listen to several moving songs I treasure for what they represent**  
  
2. What associations do you have with the harp as an instrument?   
 **Angelic music, very calming and soothing to the soul**  
  
**Explore it**

3. What were two unfortunate characteristics of Saul’s spiritual life after his disobedience? ([16:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+16%3A14))   
 **Now the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him.**

4. How did Saul’s attendants explain his moods to him? ([16:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+16%3A15))   
 **An Evil spirit from the Lord was tormenting him**

5. What solution did Saul’s servants propose for his periods of suffering? ([16:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+16%3A16))   
 **search for someone who can play the lyre**.

6. How did Saul locate a musician to play for him? ([16:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+16%3A18))   
 **One of his servants had see a son of Jesse who plays the lyre**

7. How did Saul’s servant describe David? ([16:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+16%3A18))   
 **As a brave man and warrior**

8. What message did Saul send to Jesse? ([16:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+16%3A19))   
 **Send me your son David, who is with the sheep**

9. How did Jesse respond to the king’s request to send his youngest son? ([16:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+16%3A20))   
 **He sent him with a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine and a young goat**

10. How did Saul respond to David when David joined Saul’s court? ([16:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+16%3A21))   
 **He made David an armor bearer**

11. What further message did Saul send to Jesse after David’s arrival? ([16:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+16%3A22))   
 **That Jesse allow David to remain in Saul’s service for he was please with him**

12. What relationship developed between Saul and David? ([16:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+16%3A23))   
 **David would play the lyre, Saul was relieved and would feel better and the evil spirit would leave him**  
  
**Get it**

13. How do you imagine you would feel if, like Saul, you were first chosen by God and then rejected by God?   
 **Devastated and hurt wondering why, but Saul knew his sins**

14. Why did Saul have trouble with depression?   
 **Due to the evil spirit God had sent upon him**

15. Why were Saul’s attendants eager to find a solution to his moodiness?   
 **Happy King happy attendant**

16. What was good or bad about the way Saul relied on David’s music to help him get out of his sour moods?   
 **Short term solution only**

17. What else do you think Saul could have done about his moodiness?   
 **Prayed that God would forgive his actions and he would be able to atone for them**

18. Which of David’s characteristics discussed in this passage reflect well on his upbringing and his own discipline and accomplishment?   
 **He played well and was a warrior and brave man, defending the flock of his father**

19. What was the highest praise of David given by the servant of Saul?   
 **The Lord is with him**  
  
**Apply it**

20. What step could you take this week to help assure that you do not become like Saul, from whom the Spirit of the Lord departed?   
 **Be as obedient as possible**

21. Using the example of the young David, how could you encourage a young person to develop into the person God wants him or her to be?   
 **Listen to your elders and read the bible**