

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 4TH-5TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

IT'S TIME (1 SAMUEL 16:1-5)

TIME TO MOVE FORWARD

God had rejected Saul because Saul rejected His word. Sam appropriately mourned for Saul, but God told him it was time to move forward.

- **There is a time for mourning and anger, but those emotions cannot define us. We have a purpose, and by God's provision, we can overcome and make a difference.**

"FILL YOUR HORN WITH OIL AND GO"

God had chosen a new king, and Sam was to travel and anoint him, but was concerned for his safety because Saul was still in power.

- The horn was from a sacrifice, and the oil symbolized God's Spirit. **If we're filled with the Spirit poured out via Christ's sacrifice, we have power and mobility even in hard times.**

LISTENING AND CONSECRATING

Sam listened to the instruction of God and went to Bethlehem. He then made his intentions clear and invited Jesse's family to join him after they were consecrated (dedicated to God).

- **Understanding and progress only come when we dedicate our lives to Jesus and continually listen to Him.**

A NEW KING (1 SAMUEL 16:6-13)

NOT SO FAST

When Sam arrived, he saw Jesse's son Eliab, who must have been attractive because Sam thought he was surely God's choice.

- God responds with a fundamental theological principle: **"Humans do not see what the Lord sees, for humans see what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart."**

HIS WAYS ARE GREATER THAN OURS

The Spirit gives us discernment and wisdom to make good judgments, but we're still limited because we can't completely know the emotions, thoughts, and intents of others.

- **Ultimate judgment is God's because He sees all things. We must learn to be okay with not knowing it all and trust that He does.**

"THE LORD HASN'T CHOSEN ANY OF THESE"

After no confirmation on Jesse's first seven sons, Sam asked if there were any more because he knew God's word was true. Jesse then told Sam he had the youngest "tending the sheep."

- **To hear from God, we must be in a relationship with Him. We must also learn patience and trust in God's timing.**

WAIT A SECOND, HE WAS ATTRACTIVE! (V12)

David had "beautiful eyes and a healthy [red], handsome appearance," but these were irrelevant because we know how God judges.

- We often limit Jesus to the Savior of people on the fringe only, but **God loves, will save, and use anyone who is humble enough to follow Him.**

"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD CAME POWERFULLY"

After getting confirmation from God, Sam anoints David. This act symbolized God setting apart kings, priests, and even altars and temples to be used for His purpose.

- Like Saul, the Spirit fell on David. Unlike Saul, the Spirit was "on David from that day forward," and Israel would never be the same.

SPIRITS (1 SAMUEL 16:14-23)

"AN EVIL SPIRIT SENT FROM THE LORD"?

The Bible telling us that God not only removed His Spirit from Saul but also sent an evil spirit to torment him is controversial and hard to comprehend.

- To add to the complexity, the Holy Spirit will briefly return to Saul in chapter 19, and he will prophesy naked.

HOW DO WE GET SOME UNDERSTANDING?

Saul was still under the Sinai Covenant (Deuteronomy 17) that stated the Israelites were God's people as long as they lived by His commands.

- Because Saul chose to be self-centered and rebel against God's instruction, he **broke his relationship with God and opened the door to evil influence.**

GOD CAN ALSO MAKE USE OF EVIL FOR HIS WILL

Tormented refers to extreme fear. As the sovereign Creator, God can punish people however He chooses. In this case, it seems to come through extreme **fear** and **paranoia**.

- **Though demons aren't always attached, debilitating fear can be a result of an absence of Jesus (Peace) in our lives.**

BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE OF DEMONIC INFLUENCE

We often give Satan too much or too little credit. **When it comes to demonic influence, deliverance, and spiritual warfare, we must be anchored to the teachings of the Bible and never entertain extrabiblical doctrine.**

- **Spiritual victory and freedom are won through obedience to God's Word.**

THE POWER OF MUSIC

As God's plan unfolds, Saul seeks someone to soothe him with music, and one of his servants knows a person who would be perfect.

- After David "entered [Saul's] service," Saul grew to love him and made him his armor-bearer. This would have made David one of Saul's closest servants.

"WHENEVER THE SPIRIT OF GOD CAME ON SAUL"

V23 is another tough verse. Whenever the evil spirit would come on Saul, David would play music and "the evil spirit would leave him."

- David was a "man after God's heart." **It is possible that the evil in Saul was incapable of being in the presence of the Holy Spirit in David.**

GOD WORKS OUT ALL THINGS... (ROMANS 8:28)

There are times when God allows demons to act (Job, Acts 5). Here, maybe He allowed the spirit to come on Saul because it drew David into his life and eventually the throne.

- We must also remember Saul **willingly rejected the will, and thus the protection, of God.**

SPIRITS

- We can easily neglect the reality of spiritual warfare and demonic influence because of biblical ignorance, misinformation, distraction, or apathy. **In reality, Satan and demons are real, and they aim to "steal and kill and destroy" (John 10:10).**

OPENING DOORS

- We reject the Holy Spirit through **unrepentant sin, disobedience, selfishness, withholding forgiveness, and entertaining things that are unholy or contradictory to the Word.** This rejection of the Spirit opens us up for evil spirits to oppress or possess us.

BE SOBER AND VIGILANT (1 PETER 5:8)

- When we're intoxicated (drugs, alcohol, food, affirmation, power, etc.) Satan capitalizes on an opportunity to attack us.
- So, **we must fill our minds with godly things via prayer, the Word, and good community and learn to "capture" our thoughts** (2 Corinthians 10:5).

WE MUST STRIVE TO BE FULL OF HIS SPIRIT

- There is a difference between having the Spirit (Ephesians 1:13) and being full of the Spirit.
- Though we receive the Spirit at salvation, being continually **filled with the Spirit fulfills us, empowers us to live more God-honoring lives, strengthens us against Satan, and equips us to pour into others.**

HOW ARE WE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- We must **"pay careful attention...to how [we] walk"** (Ephesians 5). The first step in "walking" in the right direction is humility.
- We must **pray, listen, submit to the Word, and yield our will to His.**
- We must be **consecrated** (dedicated) by distancing ourselves from evil.
- Though the Bible doesn't give us an exact formula, the path to being filled with the Holy Spirit lies in the **complete and daily relenting of our minds, emotions, thoughts, bodies, desires, and actions to Jesus Christ.**