

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 5TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

A TIME FOR EVERYTHING (1 SAMUEL 16:1-3) "HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO MOURN..."

The Lord asks Samuel how long he will mourn for Saul.

- Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us, **"There is an occasion for everything, and a time for every activity under heaven."** Verse 4 tells us there is **"a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance."** **We do not set this timetable; God does!**

GO AND ANOINT THE NEW KING OF ISRAEL

The Lord told Samuel, **"Fill your horn with oil and go"** because He had selected the next king of Israel from the sons of Jesse. Though God rejected Saul, he was still the most powerful man in Israel.

- **Samuel could be killed for treason** if he was caught anointing a new king, so **God instructed him to take a young cow to Bethlehem for a sacrifice and invite Jesse.**

SECRECY IS NOT THE SAME AS DECEIT

Did God tell Samuel to lie or to deceive intentionally? No, not at all!

- He did offer a sacrifice in Bethlehem, so He never lied or told half-truths. The young cow only masked his intentions so he didn't bring undue attention. **It was wise for Samuel to keep the purpose of his journey a secret for a time.**

GOD'S CHOSEN KING

Israel rebelled against God and requested a *king for themselves*, but this time, God selected a *king for himself* to lead Israel.

- **Samuel's fear was quelled by God's promises** that He would let him know what to do and whom to anoint. **Our fears should be removed by a similar promise that He will never leave us** (Hebrews 13:5).

THE LINEAGE OF JESSE

Israel's next king would be among the sons of Jesse, who was the grandson of Ruth and Boaz (Ruth 4:17, 22). We do not know much about Jesse, but we become very familiar with his youngest son, David.

- **OT prophesy states that the King of all kings would come from the stump of Jesse** (Isaiah 11:1-10; Jeremiah 23:5; Micah 5:2).

GOD'S ANOINTED KING (1 SAMUEL 16:4-13) GUILTY CONSCIENCE?

When Samuel entered Bethlehem, he was met by the elders, who trembled and asked, **"Do you come in peace?"**

- God had just used Samuel as an instrument of judgment against King Agag of Amalek, so it seems reasonable to assume the elders were fearful God had sent Samuel to judge them.

"CONSECRATE YOURSELVES..."

Jesse's family was to participate in the sacrifice and then enjoy a meal from a portion of the sacrifice.

- To consecrate yourself means to be separated from things that are unclean and would contaminate your relationship with a perfect God. **We are to be holy; separate from the world** (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 2:9-10).

JUDGING ELIAB BASED ON HIS APPEARANCE

Samuel saw Jesse's oldest son and **thought Eliab looked the part since he was tall and handsome.**

- Samuel made the same mistake Israel made in choosing their first king. Though **Eliab looked the part, he didn't have the heart the king of God's people** should have, so God said, **"I have rejected him."**

THE LORD DOES NOT SEE AS WE SEE

The Lord does not look at the outward appearance of humanity but is able to look at the condition of our hearts.

- We must **first recognize and address our natural tendencies to judge on outward appearances**, then **look to the Lord to give us a heart and mind like His** when looking at people.

"ARE THESE ALL THE SONS YOU HAVE?"

Jesse presented his sons who were in attendance, and though they were not bad men, **they were not God's choice for king.** God had a king in mind that differed from Samuel's and Jesse's expectations.

- **Samuel knew what God had spoken** (16:1), so **he knew there must be another son of Jesse not at the feast.**

"...HE'S TENDING THE SHEEP."

David was the "smallest" of all the brothers and seemed to be **disregarded by his family.** He wasn't referred to by name or invited to the feast until Samuel insisted.

- David was **a boy with a shepherd's heart**, and one day, the "Good Shepherd," Jesus Christ, who knew what it's like to be despised and not valued (Isaiah 53), would emerge from his lineage.

"ANOINT HIM, FOR HE IS THE ONE."

David had the appearance, but more importantly, **he had the anointing from the Lord.** Though he was imperfect, **David's role in redemption would be mentioned more than a thousand times in Scripture.**

- The Spirit "rushed" upon David as it did on Saul in 1 Samuel 10:10. The difference is that it remained with him from **"that day forward."**

DAVID FINDS FAVOR (1 SAMUEL 16:14-23) IS GOD STILL GOOD IN ALLOWING EVIL?

Verse 14 has caused concern for Christians, and it is hard for us to understand the concept of God sending an evil spirit to torment someone.

- We see **the Spirit of God leave Saul, an evil spirit sent from the Lord to torment him**, and **then the Spirit briefly returns** to Saul in 19:23 as he prophecies naked.

SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER

God is not the author of evil, but He can use evil to accomplish His plans (Romans 8:28). **There is a difference between controlling evil and creating evil.**

- As seen in Job (*Satan attacks Job*), Acts 5 (*Satan enters the hearts of Ananias and Sapphira*), and Habakkuk 1:5-11 (*Babylon*), **God uses evil to accomplish His plans.**

WHERE THE SPIRIT IS, THERE IS FREEDOM

Saul resisted the Holy Spirit, essentially telling the Spirit to "go away," so **God withdrew His hand of protection and allowed the evil to come without being the source of evil.**

- Like Saul, **we may think that we would be freer without the Spirit's conviction**, but **we are open to worse bondage without the Spirit's protection.**

SAUL HAD A CHOICE

Like all Jewish people, **Saul was under the covenantal agreement made between God and His People** (Moses) **on Mt. Sinai** (Deuteronomy 17:18-20).

- **If Saul obeyed God, he would have chosen life and blessings, but by disobeying God, Saul chose death and curses** (Deuteronomy 30:15-20).

AN OPEN DOOR FOR EVIL AND FOR DAVID

Saul's disobedience not only opened the door for an evil spirit but also the door for needing the newly anointed king.

- The evil spirit would leave Saul whenever David played the lyre (harp). **Was it the music that David played or the presence of the Spirit in David that caused the evil spirit to flee?**

POWER OF MUSIC

Throughout Scripture, we see the use of music in worship, mourning, and celebration. The longest book in the Bible—Psalms—is a collection of songs.

- Music is an inherent part of every society and communicates to our inner being. **Music can be used for great good or great evil.**

DAVID FINDS FAVOR

David could play the harp. He was brave, but more importantly, **the Lord was with him.**

- Saul took to David immediately and placed him close to him as his armor bearer, a chief assistant in battle. **God placed David in Saul's inner court to learn what he needed to know to be a good king in the future.**

CONSECRATE OURSELVES AND BE FILLED

- This means we **separate ourselves from things that detract from our relationship with Jesus** and **dedicate ourselves to Him through prayer, obedience to the Word, and submitting to His will.**
- We are to be full of the Holy Spirit, but **when we reject the Spirit, we open the door to evil.**

WE HAVE A CHOICE

- We are not bound by how well we are able to adhere to the law (Romans 7:1-13). **Jesus came to fulfill the law** (Matthew 5:17) and **to testify to the truth** (John 18:37).
- To choose Christ is to choose **life and blessings** (John 10:10).
- To deny Christ is to choose **death and curses** (Ephesians 2:1-10).