

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 5TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

FORWARD (1 SAMUEL 16:1-3) HOW LONG?

We don't know how long it's been since Samuel left Saul, but Samuel is still mourning. Betrayal and loss certainly call for grief and mourning, but there must come a time when it isn't the one thing that dominates our lives.

- **When we are stuck, God has a plan for what may be the most important event of our lives. How long will we wait?**

FILL YOUR HORN AND GO

There is a time to move forward. There are incidents in our lives that are hurtful, even regrettable – sad things, hard times, raw deals, pain, problems, and disappointments.

- **We must move on because we serve a God who is on the move. If we remain in the past, we will miss the present move of God.**

"I WILL LET YOU KNOW..."

Samuel was in bondage to mourning and fear. God gave him new orders that would reveal God's anointed king.

- **Grief, failure, and fear may keep us from moving forward. God still wants us to take steps toward Him. We may not see what it is all about until we move in obedience.**

ANOINTED (1 SAMUEL 16:4-13) I COME IN PEACE

Samuel obeys God but finds the Elders of Bethlehem afraid of Him. He settled their fears with a sacrificial feast, and everyone got ceremonially "cleaned up" before supper.

- **We may live in a different time, but our message isn't one that should cause fear. Meeting people where they are, with a message of hope, should bring peace.**

SAMUEL SAW...

Saul had been the people's king and looked like it. Now, Samuel would make the same mistake the people had made... focusing on appearances.

- **God surprised Samuel that day, and He may surprise us, too. We must be ready for God to work in people and ways we do not expect.**

GOD SAW...

David was the youngest and just a shepherd. He didn't compare to his brothers. Yet, not one of them was God's chosen king!

- **God examines hearts, and He alone can search and know a person's motives. Ultimately, God knows His plan and how it will work for our good and His glory. We *SHOULD* trust Him.**

TENDING THE SHEEP

David was already a shepherd at a young age, and he knew that sheep need to be led and protected. He would be the leader that Israel needed to repair Saul's damage.

- **God calls busy people, not people looking for ways to avoid responsibility. David had been a faithful servant and would become a servant leader.**

ANOINT HIM

This is the first of three anointings of David. Here, he would receive the power of God – His Spirit. Saul had received God's Spirit, but it was temporary. David would have God's Spirit "from that day forward."

- **David wasn't trying to be king, just faithful. God calls us to service and gives us His Holy Spirit to empower us to serve.**

SERVICE (1 SAMUEL 16:14-23) SPIRITS AND SAUL

God's Spirit had left Saul because he had rejected God. His rejection caused an evil spirit to torment him for the rest of his life.

- **We don't know if the purpose of the spirit was to draw Saul to repentance or the tool of judgment from God. Either way, we know that God had His purpose for this spirit.**

RELIEF

Saul's servants see his torment and suggest a solution – music. As they seek David, we realize that God's "evil spirit" is part of His plan to introduce David to the king. The spirit wasn't "possessing" Saul; it was following orders from God.

- **God had already equipped David to serve the king, and He is equipping us, too.**

REPUTATION

David's reputation was spreading throughout the land. He was physically, intellectually, and spiritually strong and a gifted musician.

- **God has given us life, gifts, abilities, talents, skills, and strengths that should be used for His glory. As we do, we will find our place in His Kingdom. Far too many are looking for positions and power.**

SEND YOUR SON

Saul used his position and power in a way that Samuel warned the people about. He told Jesse to "send me your son." Jesse responded with a donkey full of gifts as he sent his youngest son into the service of the king.

- Initially, it was a temporary assignment but became more permanent when Saul took David as his armor-bearer.

LOVE?

Whenever David would play the lyre, Saul would have relief from the evil spirit. Saul "loved" David because of what he could do for Saul. David would remain a faithful servant of the king, but Saul's feelings would be replaced with envy, fear, and hate.

- **Love isn't a response to what we get; it's an expression of what we give.**

NEXT

- We need to evaluate where we are now in our relationship with God.
- **God wants us to take the next steps in our journey with Him.**
- **There is always a "next step." We may miss the next great opportunity when we choose to stay in our current circumstance, emotion, or victory.**

EQUIPPED

- God has equipped us for all that He has for us to do today.
- **He will equip us for all that He has planned for our future.**
- **Our problem isn't that we aren't equipped; we don't believe He can or will use us. God is looking for and using everyone who believes He can and will.**

NOW

- God has a place for us now.
- **If we aspire to some great position, are we really serving God or ourselves?**
- **God's place for us now is perfect in His plan for our future. When will we surrender to God's plan and serve Him wherever He may place us? When will we truly love God?**