



The Lord's Anointed
18th in the "God's King" Series
1 Samuel 16
October 16, 2022
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God transfers kingship from Saul to David and teaches us how he works for his people.

The Text: 1 Samuel 16

¹The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' ³And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you." ⁴Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him." ⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ¹⁰And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." ¹¹Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." ¹²And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he."

¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah. ¹⁴Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him. ¹⁵And Saul's servants said to him, "Behold now, a harmful spirit from God is tormenting you. ¹⁶Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well." ¹⁷So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me." ¹⁸One of the young men answered, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the Lord is with him." ¹⁹Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me David your son, who is with the sheep." ²⁰And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread and a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them by David his son to Saul. ²¹And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. ²²And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight." ²³And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.

1) God's perfect plans do not always match our logic and reasoning (vv. 1-12).

- a) This text rebukes our natural tendency to trust too much in human strength, intellect, and pedigree.
- b) Christians and churches almost certainly need to rethink their definition of "success."

2) God works not by might nor by power but by his Spirit (vv. 13-23).

- a) Christians need to understand the primary role the Holy Spirit plays in their lives and ministry.
- b) Christians can trust that what God is doing in their lives and church is Spirit-led and Spirit-empowered, even if they cannot see it.

Response

"The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us ... it is the power of God" (1 Cor 1:18).

Sunday Text Questions

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- 1) Starter Question: If you could design the ideal Christian worker or minister, what traits and skills would you think are the most important?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Why is God questioning or rebuking Samuel for grieving over Saul, and how does the phrase “since I have rejected him” give us the answer (v. 1)?
- 4) When God tells Samuel that he has chosen a new king, he makes an interesting comment: “I have provided *for myself* a king” (v. 2). What is God communicating to us with these specific words?
- 5) What might have caused Samuel to think Eliab, the first son of Jesse, was “surely the Lord’s anointed” (v. 6)?
- 6) What does God mean when he says to Samuel, “the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart” (v. 7)?
- 7) What are some ways we (people in general or the church), trust in the outward appearance and not the heart?
- 8) Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. How does this text reflect the focus on “outward appearance” that God was rebuking in our passage?
- 9) How can we identify the outward things we are trusting in or relying upon that might be competing with a trust on God and his Spirit?
- 10) How would the American church look different if it focused on the heart and not outward appearance?

Further study this week: Passages that warn against trusting in outward appearance: Colossians 2:8 (Mon); 1 Corinthians 3:18 (Tues); Jeremiah 8:9 (Wed); Proverbs 3:5-6 (Thurs); 1 Corinthians 3:18-20 (Fri).