

1st Samuel Chapter 16

V: 1 Constitutes a correction to Samuel's behavior. Samuel is grieving over Saul's behavior and his rejection as king – and essentially God says why are you doing that, we're moving on – I've chosen someone else, fill your horn with oil and go.

- Why was Samuel grieving so much about Saul? After what we've read about Saul I don't find myself grieving so much as I find myself being critical of Saul.
- I don't think Samuel was grieving so much about Saul as he was wrestling with his mistaken perception that God had either been wrong or had somehow changed His mind which contradicts everything he knows about God.

Malachi 3:6 “For I am the Lord, I change not;...”

James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

- Samuel, like us at times might be trying to reconcile what he knows of God and what he sees transpiring before him and can't figure it out, and like us this stems from our inability to fully comprehend the incomprehensible God.

Isaiah 55:8-9 “⁸For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

As Samuel said in the last chapter:

1 Samuel 15:29 “And also the Strength of Israel ^(God) will not lie nor repent: for He is not a man, that He should repent” or change His mind.

- God is eternal and un-changing, He's immutable:

Hebrews 13:8 “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever.”

- God says to Samuel: Go to Jesse's house: “... for I have provided...”
- God already has a plan, He God didn't sit around and try to figure out what He's going to do next, all these things fit seamlessly into His eternal plan.

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you and expected end.”

- We may not understand what God is doing at times but we know that He's fully in control and He will bring everything to a specific conclusion, that will not only glorify His name, but bless us in the process. So the correction, “knock it off, let's go...”

V: 2-3 Samuel considers the practicality of God's instruction, how to do what he's being told.

Proverbs 3:5-6 “⁵Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”

- Samuels concerns are based on practicality as opposed to fear of Saul; the Lord doesn't say to Samuel “fear not” – which would be an indication, He simply says well take a cow over to Bethlehem to offer a sacrifice and have Jesse join you – then I'll show you what to do next.

V: 4-5 “... Samuel did that which the Lord spake...” Such a contrast to Saul, and such a good example for us to follow.

Map: Ramah & Bethlehem.

- Beth-lehem: House of bread – where later the “Bread of Life” would come into this world.
- The elders of Bethlehem come out trembling, fearfully and ask if Samuel is coming peaceably? Why would they act that way? There's no record of Samuel visiting there before, his regular circuit took him to different cities, thinking something must be wrong. Or...

Isaiah 66:5 “Hear the word of the Lord, ye that tremble at His word...”

- Samuel re-assures them and invites them to them and Jesse's family to the sacrifice.
- “Sanctify yourselves” – no one that is ceremonially unclean can participate in the sacrifices or feasts – take a bath, put on some clean clothes, and meet me at the altar.

V: 6-7 Jesse's oldest son Eliab had that obviously favorable appearance, kingly material, and Samuel said “surely the Lord's anointed is before me.”

- He's got a good name: “God is Father”, and up to this point he's met the same qualifications as Saul – he looked good on the outside, but he's not the one God wanted.
- Don't look at his physical attributes – for God sees things differently, He looks at the heart.
- God could have said, Samuel “go to Jesse's house and anoint his youngest son, David”
- But He didn't do that, He's taking Samuel through a learning process as part of the process in anointing a new king.

- Samuel is learning or perhaps refining on what Paul wrote about:

2 Corinthians 5:7 “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

- It’s not about the outward appearance, it’s about the inward man, and only God knows that.

1 Chronicles 28:9 “... for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek Him, He will be found of thee...”

2 Chronicles 6:30 “Then hear thou from heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and render unto every man according unto all his ways, whose heart thou knowest; for thou only knowest the hearts of the children of men:”

Psalms 44:21 “Shall not God search this out? For He knoweth the secrets of the heart.”

V: 8-10 Jesse then brings his next two oldest sons before Samuel – with the Lord speaking into his ear each time not this one, then not this one and so on through 7 of Jesse’s sons.

Abinidab: “My Father is generous.”

Shammah: “Astonishment” (surprise)

- Samuel is on track with the Lord as they proceed through this process in absolute unity – Samuel hearing God’s voice and expressing that to Jesse.

Isaiah 30:21 “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, this is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.”

V: 11 After going through 7 sons without finding the one God wanted, Samuel inquires about more, since God hasn’t chosen the ones presented.

- Jesse had seemingly written off his youngest, the least of his sons as being out of the question.

1 Corinthians 1:27 “But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.”

- Even though David had been discounted by his father, his name means “favorite” or “beloved”.
- Had an election been held in Israel to select a new king, David would never have been heard of.

- The nation had experienced a king, now they are going to get a shepherd – and those are usually found with the sheep.

Psalm 78:70-72 “⁷⁰He chose David also His servant, and took him from the sheepfolds: ⁷¹from following the ewes great with young He brought him to feed Jacob His people, and Israel His inheritance. ⁷²So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.”

V: 12 When they brought David in he was “ruddy” – meaning either red haired or fair complexion.

- “Beautiful countenance” – Bright eyes, good looking – arm candy...
- Another qualification that is not mentioned here or immediately, the most important one:

1 Samuel 13:14 “... the Lord hath sought Him a man after His own heart...”

- Where did David get this heart? God created David with the gifts that he had, David had spent a lot of time in the wilderness with the sheep, and with God – and these things showed.
- But someone got him started on this path. In the many Psalms that David wrote, his father is never mentioned, not once. But his mother is described in Psalm 86:16 and Psalm 116:16 as a maidservant of the Lord.
- It was probably David’s Godly mother who poured her heart and love and devotion of God into him and gave him the foundation to build on with the Lord.

Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

- The Lord then directs Samuel to arise and anoint David.

V: 13 As Samuel anoints David in the midst of his brethren, they must have been amazed.

- Oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit: (**Zechariah 4:1-6**)
- Christ = “Anointed”
- The Spirit of God is the oil that keeps that light, the lamps, the Menorah burning.
- As David is anointed with oil, the Spirit of the Lord comes upon him from that day forward.
- Samuel returns to his home in Ramah, mission accomplished, sort of.
- David was anointed to be king, but Saul was still sitting on the throne.

- This is a reminder or points to Jesus Christ – Jesus the “Anointed” – Anointed to be King of kings, and Lord of Lords – yet there is still a usurper on the throne, the Devil who is referred to:

John 14:30 “... the prince of this world...”

2 Corinthians 4:4 “... the god of this world....”

- God has a perfect plan, and a perfect time, God was going to work some things out in David’s life, just like He’s working some things out in ours.
- Contrary to Saul, David was anointed amongst his brethren, and this is the first time he’s anointed, he will later be anointed a second time:

2 Samuel 2:4 “And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah...”

- David will be anointed a 3rd time:

2 Samuel 5:3 “So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the Lord: and they anointed David king over Israel.”

- Anointed 3 times, the anointing of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

V: 14-18 Contrast: But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul – and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him.

- **Ichabod**: the glory has departed, Saul through his disobedience has grieved the Spirit of God and He has withdrawn Himself.

Ephesians 4:30 “And grieve not the Holy spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

- An evil spirit from the Lord, or allowed by the Lord. There is no such thing as a void or vacuum in nature or in spiritual things.
- We are either going to be inhabited by the Spirit of the Living God, or by the spirit of the world.
- At this point it might be fair to ask, is Saul better off than when he first encountered Samuel and the Living God or not?

Hebrews 6:4-6 “⁴For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, ⁵and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, ⁶if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”

- Saul's counselors rightly discern that an evil spirit is vexing their king, and further discern that someone who can play the harp well might be able to help and bring comfort.
- Saul agrees and directs his servant to find such a man.
- The servant then describes that David is such a man, a man's man – and most importantly the Lord is with him.
- Chronology compared to chapter 17, man or war?

V: 19-20 Saul sends to Jesse for David, and Jesse responds by not only sending David but a gift as well for the king.

- The "father" sends the "son" with gifts of bread & wine (communion elements) and a kid / sin offering... just like our Lord Jesus!

V: 21-23 David loved Saul – in a selfless and sacrificial way. David became Saul's armorbearer. (Chronology, greater and lesser) David never seemed to feel anger towards Saul, never allowed hatred to rule in his heart, seemingly always an admirer of "God's Anointed" – even though for many years Saul was out to kill him.

- Saul decides to keep David, he has found favor in his sight; because the Spirit of God is upon him.
- Whenever the evil spirit vexed Saul, David would play the harp and Saul would be comforted and refreshed – and the evil spirit departed from him.
- The power of worship on display.

Ephesians 5:19 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Colossians 3:16 "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

- When we're feeling attacked by the enemy, we get depressed, or discouraged – as we begin to worship the Lord, and to praise Him – the enemy doesn't like to stick around for that – it's a great remedy for us as well.

Nehemiah 8:10 "... for the joy of the Lord is your strength..."