

## SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

### LESSON 9



## DAVID ANOINTED FUTURE KING

*Scripture Text: 1 Samuel 16:1-13*

The story of David begins in this chapter of our study today, where we are told about his being anointed by Samuel as the future king of Israel. Because of Saul's two acts of disobedience described in earlier lessons, God had to take from him and his house the rulership of Israel. Samuel was then sent to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem, where he was told he would find the one he was to anoint as king. After seven sons of Jesse passed before Samuel, the Prophet said, "The Lord hath not chosen these." When David, the youngest son was brought in, Samuel knew at once that he was the one. From that day on, the Spirit of God came mightily upon David.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *For the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart. —1 Samuel 16:7b*

### The Lord's Plan

**1 Samuel 16:1** **How long wilt thou mourn ...?** No doubt Samuel's grief was hindering his service to God and was filling too much of his thoughts. He could do nothing to change Saul's condition or God's verdict. Saul was going backward. God's work must go forward. Now the Lord gave Samuel a task, a hope that moved him to activity. To get busy in the work of God is all that is needed many times to take our minds from our troubles. **Fill thine horn with oil, and go ... I have provided me a king ...** God cared about Saul too, but He saw the whole picture. He was going forward. He put His plan into Samuel's hands to help carry it out. The plan was definite and complete, as are all of God's plans. One of Jesse's sons was to be king. It belonged to God to provide or choose the ruler to serve His purpose.

### Samuel Obeys

**1 Samuel 16:2-5** There was tension in Israel concerning Saul and Samuel. Saul felt jealousy toward whoever would take his place and suspicion toward Samuel, the one to anoint a new king. At least Samuel feared for his life should he do it with Saul's knowledge. Also, his coming caused trembling in Bethlehem. The elders thought of Samuel's authority and Saul's feelings and were apprehensive of any move. The Lord shielded the anointing from Saul's detection by ordering a sacrifice at the same time. Samuel proceeded as told. Jesse and his sons and others must be sanctified to partake of the sacrifice. This was an outward ceremonial cleansing of the body and clothing to be prepared for worship. It was symbolic of the inner heart cleansing we must have to truly worship. Worship must come from a pure heart (**John 4:24**).

By the Lord's help, we must overcome the natural, fleshly tendency to be jealous and envious. Then we can rejoice in the good fortune of our brethren. In Saul's case, a younger man was coming along, full of promise and hope, and Saul should have realized that his own time was almost over and that he ought to give every possible aid to his successor. That is the spirit that all of us should have as we see ourselves moving along in years and other coming to take our places.

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### Seven Sons Rejected

**1 Samuel 16:6-10** Samuel saw Jesse's eldest son, Eliab, saw his fine physique and handsome face. "He would make a great king," he thought. But God thought differently, for He saw differently. He looked at Eliab's heart which was not as perfect as his body. It was the same with all seven sons. Man's judgment is unworthy of comparison with God's because man cannot see as God sees. Knowing this, Samuel sought God's counsel in all matters, not trusting his own. He listened and waited on the Lord. This was the secret of his success as a prophet. What would be the result of our following this principle today?

### David Chosen

**1 Samuel 16:11-13** **Are here all thy children?** If so, had he misunderstood the Lord? No, there was one more – the youngest, the one busy at work keeping the sheep. He came before Samuel. He, too, was **beautiful and goodly** outwardly. The Lord chose him for his obedient heart. He did not have Saul's faults of rebellion and stubbornness. Samuel anointed him. Now he was king, even though he did not begin active ruling until sometime later. **The Spirit of the Lord was upon David** and remained.

The Lord knew who He wanted for king before they passed in review. Why did he let Samuel view all before revealing His choice? No doubt it was to clarify Samuel's thoughts, to insure against later doubts as to the correctness of the choice. Perhaps, to illustrate that outward appearances are not trustworthy guides. Perhaps, to give Samuel an opportunity to exercise his will – whether to choose as he wished or to wait for God's Word. We have that power too, and God does not take it from us. If we make a choice by ourselves, we must take the consequence of that choice. It is good to wait and listen to God's leading and obey. Through God's waiting to tell His choice, all persons involved were able to clearly see God's choice.

### Further Reading

In the verses to follow in this chapter, we read of Saul's choice of David to serve him, not yet knowing of David's position in the kingdom. This served to give David a useful acquaintance with the king's office. Are there any better qualifications to fit a man to rule a nation or his household than God's way? David's writings show his love for God and his joy in submitting to Him.

### JUST A THOUGHT

**Faith is not trying to believe something regardless of evidence.  
Faith is daring to do something regardless of the consequences.**