

David Is Anointed King

Lesson Scope: [1 Samuel 16](#)

Lesson Focus

In the first year of his reign, Saul's leadership inspired national unity and confidence in God. But those good things did not continue. Time after time, Saul refused to follow God's direction. Even Samuel's rebukes seemed to fall on deaf ears. Finally Samuel told Saul that God had rejected him and had chosen a better man (1 Samuel 15:28).

Saul's failure brought great sorrow to Samuel, but in the midst of that sorrow, God called Samuel to take steps that would move the kingdom forward. The same God who had rejected Saul had also provided Himself a king after His own heart. The anointing of David marks the beginning of the royal line of Judah, which led to the Saviour and King of kings, our Lord Jesus Christ.

God will accomplish His purposes. At times, individuals may fail, but God continues to raise up men who will advance His cause.

Although God sets up and puts down the leaders of national governments, He gives special attention and care to the choosing of leaders for His people. Joseph, David, and others needed to first go through the furnace of trials and afflictions before being given great responsibility. All of God's leaders were and are fallible humans with the same emotions, needs, and temptations that we experience. God works through parental influence, mundane responsibilities, and everyday circumstances to prepare His leaders. God calls us to honor, pray for, and submit to them.

Lesson Aim: To show God at work in calling and relating to leaders.

Theme Verse: [2 Samuel 7:8](#). Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel.

Lesson Text:

"I Have Provided Me a King"

1 Samuel 16:1 ¹ And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons. 1 Samuel 16:4-5 ⁴ And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably? ⁵ And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

"Arise, Anoint Him"

1 Samuel 16:6-13 ⁶ And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed *is* before him. ⁷ But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. ¹⁰ Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these. ¹¹ And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all *thy* children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. ¹² And he sent, and brought him in. Now he *was* ruddy, *and* withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this *is* he. ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

"The LORD Is With Him"

1 Samuel 16:14-22 ¹⁴ But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him. ¹⁵ And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee. ¹⁶ Let our lord now command thy servants, *which are* before thee, to seek out

a man, *who is* a cunning player on an harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well. ¹⁷ And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring *him* to me. ¹⁸ Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, *that is* cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD *is* with him. ¹⁹ Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which *is* with the sheep. ²⁰ And Jesse took an ass *laden* with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent *them* by David his son unto Saul. ²¹ And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armour bearer. ²² And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight.

Questions for Study

"I Have Provided Me a King"

1. What do we learn from God's instruction to Samuel in 1 Samuel 16:1?

"Arise, Anoint Him"

2. Explain 1 Samuel 16:12 in light of 1 Samuel 16:7.
3. What qualities did David display that fit him for leadership?
4. How can leaders safely be chosen when we cannot see the heart?

"The LORD Is With Him"

5. In what ways did Jesse encourage David to respect Saul?
6. What were some indications that the Lord was with David?
7. What does it take to maintain the presence of the Spirit in our lives?

Analyzing the Passage

The horn of oil (1 Samuel 16:1) that Samuel used was likely an animal horn used to hold a small amount of olive oil.

Ruddy (1 Samuel 16:12) means "reddish." It could mean that David had red hair or possibly a red complexion. The same Hebrew word is used to describe Esau in Genesis 25:25. "Of a beautiful countenance" (1 Samuel 16:12) refers primarily to David's eyes, likely to the open honesty that his eyes conveyed.

"An evil spirit from the LORD" troubled Saul (1 Samuel 16:14). Since

the Scripture tells us that "God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man" (James 1:13), the spirit in focus was not a demonic spirit, but rather the spirit of a troubled conscience or emotional instability, or both. God in mercy sends such unrest to move sinners to repentance.

Principles and Applications

"I Have Provided Me a King"

1. When leaders fail, their usefulness to God is lost (1 Samuel 16:1). Both Saul and David sinned as kings, but their attitudes toward their sin were quite different. David humbled himself, acknowledged his sin, and repented. God called David a man after His own heart (Acts 13:22). David was a man God could use to raise "unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus" and to further His kingdom (Acts 13:22, 23).

2. God uses faithful leaders to call other leaders (1 Samuel 16:1, 13). Samuel was faithful to God, and God used him to reveal the king He had chosen. God could call leaders by using angels or an audible voice, but usually He does not. Rather, His use of existing faithful leaders to reveal His choice of new leaders provides continuity and stability to His work. Older faithful leaders are an encouragement and an example to younger ones (1 Samuel 19:18). Even the apostle Paul, whom God arrested by a bright light, needed an Ananias and a Barnabas (Acts 9:17, 27).

3. The call to leadership is by God's appointment (1 Samuel 16:1). It was not Samuel who chose Saul; it was God. Neither did Samuel choose David. God chooses to place even ungodly men in earthly governments to fulfill His purpose. David understood that God had anointed him as king to replace Saul, but God had not removed Saul. David waited patiently for God's time. God "removeth kings, and setteth up kings. . . ." "The most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men" (Daniel 2:21; 4:17).

4. The Lord uses godly homes to prepare sanctified persons for His service (1 Samuel 16:5). At a young age, David learned to work and contribute to the good of his family. In the home, David built character and honesty. It seems that Jesse's family was familiar with worship.

Wise parents help their children develop godly character at a young age.

In the home, children are taught responsibility and accountability. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much" (Luke 16:10). Children learn to be responsible in family duties before they are ready for duties that involve more people and greater consequences. It is important to manage material things in a godly way before being given oversight over others. Godly parents prepare their children for life by holding them to a high standard of accountability.

"Arise, Anoint Him"

5. God's call to service is based on His omniscience (1 Samuel 16:7-10). God knows the heart of man and chooses leaders to fulfill His divine purpose. At times mortal man may question why God chooses men like Saul, whom He knows will not remain faithful. We can know that God's work will prosper in spite of unfaithful men. God has chosen to accomplish much of His work in this world through imperfect men, to whom He gives opportunity to choose either to obey or to disobey Him.

6. The Spirit of God enables those whom He calls (1 Samuel 16:13). The work of God involves the souls of men; the consequences of failure are so great that mortal man needs divine aid to serve. God provides this help through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit, bringing wisdom, comfort, and security to the believer.

"The LORD Is With Him"

7. Leaders who live in defeat lose God's blessing and open themselves to evil (1 Samuel 16:14). The Spirit did not continue to indwell Saul, because he refused to follow God. Along with losing God's Spirit came greater control by the evil one. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Romans 6:16).

8. God directs through circumstances to prepare His chosen vessels for their field of service (1 Samuel 16:17-21). God knew David was out in the field with the sheep, and at the proper time he was called. When Saul was troubled, God caused someone to remember David's skills so that David was placed where God wanted him. God arranged that Jesse would send David to the army with provisions so he was there to meet Goliath. God leads us in a similar way to perform His purposes as we choose to follow Him. Opportunities that seem to slip away, or that never come, may serve God's purpose as much as the assignments we

receive.

9. God's blessing upon the faithful becomes a testimony to others (1 Samuel 16:18). David faithfully served Saul in a variety of tasks. Even though David was anointed king, he did not stoop to envy, but he did his best for Saul. His faithfulness in the lowly tasks, as well as the more prominent tasks, left a testimony for God. His behavior and decisions demonstrated that God's Spirit controlled his life.

Important Teachings

1. When leaders fail, their usefulness to God is lost (1 Samuel 16:1).
2. God uses faithful leaders to call other leaders (1 Samuel 16:1, 13).
3. The call to leadership is by God's appointment (1 Samuel 16:1).
4. The Lord uses godly homes to prepare sanctified persons for His service (1 Samuel 16:5).
5. God's call to service is based on His omniscience (1 Samuel 16:7-10).
6. The Spirit of God enables those whom He calls (1 Samuel 16:13).
7. Leaders who live in defeat lose God's blessing and open themselves to evil (1 Samuel 16:14).
8. God directs through circumstances to prepare His chosen vessels for their field of service (1 Samuel 16:17-21).
9. God's blessing upon the faithful becomes a testimony to others (1 Samuel 16:18).

Answers to Questions

1. What do we learn from God's instruction to Samuel in 16:1?

We learn that, when men reject God long enough, God also rejects them. God's work goes on when men fail; He sets up others to fill their place. Sorrow for failure of others must not detract from kingdom work. Samuel continued to mourn for Saul until he died, but God sent him to anoint Saul's replacement.

2. Explain 1 Samuel 16:12 in light of 1 Samuel 16:7.

God **did** not mean that beauty and good character could not be found in the same person. He was warning Samuel that a handsome person does not necessarily indicate a godly heart.

3. What qualities did David display that fit him for leadership?

David diligently attended to his present duties. He responded promptly when called. Later, David was kind to Saul and cared about him. When we read the Psalms, we realize that he must have used his time with the sheep to cultivate a relationship with God.

4. How can leaders safely be chosen when we cannot see the heart?

The Lord will direct the church to choose leaders as each member follows God closely. Together, the church must seek out men of honest report whose lives exemplify the fruit of the Spirit.

5. In what ways did Jesse encourage David to respect Saul? Jesse did not send David to Saul empty-handed (1 Samuel 16:20). It seems that Jesse released David to serve Saul when he was called (1 Samuel 16:22).

6. What were some indications that the Lord was with David?

God allowed David to escape harm at the hand of Saul. He was faithful in the material duties of life (1 Samuel 16:11), he obeyed his father (1 Samuel 16:12; 17:20), and he served Saul faithfully (1 Samuel 16:23). That David behaved himself wisely in these difficult times is an indication of the Lord's presence (18:14). To remain free of revenge when given the opportunity to do Saul harm shows the power of God in his life. To express good memories of Saul at his death indicates a godly attitude (2 Samuel 1:19-27).

7. What does it take to maintain the presence of the Spirit in our lives?

To maintain the presence of the Spirit, we must obey known truth as found in the Scriptures. We must be sensitive to the prompting of the Spirit and heed His direction.

Research Guide

1. Review the main points of the chapter titled "The Ministry" in *Doctrines of the Bible*.
2. Second Samuel 1:17-27 tells what David remembered about Saul. Do I remember good things about my brethren or my employer?

Summarizing the Lesson

It is important to be faithful where the Lord calls us. Personal faithfulness to God is more important than where we labor. Our attitude toward others is also important. Many, like Saul, fail to receive correction from others because they are too proud to confess and forsake sin. Or they al-

low jealousy to spoil relationships that could further the kingdom. Let us, like David, labor faithfully for God.