

**“Man’s Afterthought, God’s Anointed” 1 Samuel 16:1-13**  
**Wednesday PM 9/25/19 – Jeff Lyle**

Few people in the Bible are as compelling as King David. We are drawn to him from the very first mention of David as the little brother whom nobody thought much of. His anointing as the future king of Israel by Samuel bursts open a biography that is filled with elements of faith, love, poetry, warfare, betrayal, sin and lavish grace from God. It is impossible to know the story of David the King of Israel without learning much about our own lives. David’s story consistently intersects with the very things that mark our own lives as we endeavor to follow God in a generation that is embattled by many of the same forces that opposed David and his reign. In the end, David’s life instructs and empowers us as overcomes who contend for the breakthrough offered to us by God. This unlikely hero was singled out as a teenager by God and, from that day forward, David lived a life of passion and purpose. God is raising up many in our generation to follow in David’s footsteps, model his heart for God and learn from his regrettable mistakes.

**I. A Season of Distress for Samuel (1-3)**

**“The 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.” 2 And 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.’ 3 And 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.”**

**A. Heartbreaking circumstances**

Samuel was in the midst of a painful season in his long life and ministry. Israel had previously demanded a king of their own, rejecting God’s authority and desire to use Samuel as Israel’s leader. Samuel had personally anointed and poured into the life of Saul, the first King of Israel. Nearly from the get-go, Saul had displayed a heart that was insecure, rebellious and disconnected from spiritual integrity. By this point, God had rejected Saul from being king because Saul had failed miserably in obedience and character. Ultimately, Saul was suffering from a fear of the opinions of the people, and no leader in the kingdom of God will survive this disease of the soul. Samuel was instructed by God to go and anoint a new king to rule in Saul’s place.

**B. Gut-wrenching duties - “The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you...And Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel...” (1 Samuel 15:28, 35)**

Before anointing the new King of Israel, Samuel was forced to confront Saul and bear the horrible news of his removal as king. Doing so not only put Samuel’s life at risk, bearing the bad news to Saul was the last chapter in their relationship as the two primary spiritual and political leaders in Israel. It is extremely difficult for us to pour our lives into someone, only to witness that person fail in his or her

calling. Samuel had to experience the painful process of confronting Saul with his failures and telling him that God had removed His touch from Saul's life and reign. Samuel had to tell his student that God had rejected him as king.

**C. Eye-opening opportunities (1-3) - "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... I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you."**

Someone has said that, when a man of God fails, nothing of God Himself fails. The reality is that God always has a willing, suitable person whom He may use for his purposes. Before Samuel could stew too long in his regret over Saul's failures, God commissioned Samuel to get ready for what was coming next. One chapter had certainly closed, but God awakened Samuel with the next opportunity to reveal the future king of Israel. This is where David's story begins to emerge on the landscape of God's everlasting Kingdom.

## **II. An Occasion for Obedience from Samuel (4-10)**

**A. The diligence in pursuing God's will (4-5) - "Samuel 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?" 5 And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice."**

Obeying God in all things, Samuel immediately went to the hometown of David's father, Jesse. When a prophet and judge like Samuel showed up unannounced in your city, there would be a high level of concern. Nobody messed with Samuel, so when he arrived in Bethlehem it caused a stir. Was someone in trouble with Samuel? Did King Saul send him on official kingdom business? Nobody in Bethlehem knew what to think. Samuel let them know that there was nothing to worry about, and he told the elders of the city that he was there to consecrate a sacrifice unto the Lord. Under this guise, Samuel would do the hazardous work of seeking God's appointed man who would become the next King of Israel. This was a dangerous endeavor. If Saul caught wind of Samuel's mission, he would execute Samuel under the penalty of treason against the king. Samuel needed to keep things hidden for the time being.

**B. The difficulty in pinpointing God's will (6-7) - "When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him." 7 But 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."**

King Saul was famous for being an extremely impressive physical specimen in his day. The old adage of *tall, dark and handsome* would have rested perfectly on Israel's king. Samuel showed up to Jesse's house looking for something similar in whoever the new king would be. Eliab, the firstborn son of Jesse, looked the part.

Yet, when Samuel was convinced that Eliab would be the man for the throne, God intervened and told Samuel that he was wrong. The God instructed Samuel not to look on the sons of Jesse according to their outward appearance. The man who would be king needed to have more than a commanding physical presence. God had chosen a man that had a heart for Him. He was looking for someone that possessed an inward posture of loyalty, valor and honor toward the God of the Jews. Nothing on the outside of a person impresses God. He looks on the inward matters of the heart when He is seeking a person through whom He will work a great work. Samuel's assignment to find the new king was going to be more difficult than he might have assumed. He could not trust his physical senses. He needed God to lead him to the appointed one who would become the anointed one.

**C. The dedication to procure God's will (8-10) - "Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 10 And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these."**

As Samuel continued to seek to discern which of the remaining sons of Jesse would become king, he was met with seven closed doors and then no remaining doors. Ultimately, there were no more sons remaining to be considered. God had said no to each of the options that Samuel had placed before him. As far as the natural eye could see, Samuel was out of options. What an intense position to be in: called to an assignment but completely out of all visible resources to bring that assignment to fruition. Samuel's faith was being stretched!

### **III. A Voice of Revelation to Samuel (11-13)**

**A. An unseen candidate (11) - "Then 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."**

Refusing to panic after his options seemingly dried up, Samuel stood firm in his convictions that he had not yet encountered the future King of Israel. Jesse had one last son remaining. David was such an afterthought in the eyes of his father that he did not even get called in as a potential option in the selection process. Think of this: so little was David regarded by his dad, that he was not even allowed to leave the menial work of watching the sheep in order to come to the house with his older brothers. Samuel knew that none of the sons of Jesse thus far was the choice of God to be the next king. He commanded Jesse to call his youngest son, David, in from the fields to stand before him. There is a lesson for us in Jesse's disregard for David: never assume that any option is off the table when God calls us to an undefined assignment. His ways are NOT our ways. God is often counterintuitive, and He reserves the right to make our last pick His first pick.

**B. An unlikely candidate (12a) - “12 And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome...”**

David did not outwardly look like a king. He was young. He had pretty, delicate features. Apparently, David was light-skinned and perhaps red-headed. But David was qualified, and God had kept his eye on David for quite some time beforehand. Here is how Scripture refers to David before we even knew that he would be a candidate to become the next King of Israel:

**1 Samuel 13:14 - “...The Lord has sought out a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over His people...”**

**1 Samuel 15:28 - “The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from {Saul} this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.”**

David was everyone else’s afterthought, but he was God’s anointed. Be wise about the people around you. It is the delight of the father to choose the very people that others overlook or even reject. God is a specialist at the art of surprise, and He has a history of appointing the least likely candidates to the most noble callings.

**C. An undeniable candidate (12b-13a) - “And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.”**

God’s own pick was now revealed! Samuel had found the treasure that he had been commissioned to uncover. With a word from the Lord, Samuel moved toward the last pick of everyone in the room and acted in obedience to God’s declaration of “This is the one!” For any and all who have experienced the pain of being overlooked, rejected or shoved aside, make a note here that God’s ways include a significant plan for your life. We may never receive the applause of others (although David certainly did in his future days!), but we can experience the validation of Heaven as God releases His own calling over our lives. Our value is not in what others see or do not see in us. Our value rests in what God declares over us. His plan trumps all others plans and he may very well exalt you in order to humble those around you. Press into Him if you want to know your value and purpose. That is where we discover our lasting identity.

**D. An unstoppable candidate (13b) - 13 Then 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.”**

All of those impressive older brothers stood there with their embarrassed father as Samuel poured oil over the head of David. We have a difficult time understanding how impacting this moment would have been. In the presence of his entire family, the spiritual leader of the nation of Israel declares via anointing oil that God has chosen David to be the next King of Israel. The Scriptures declare that, from that day forward, David lived under the touch of God’s Spirit. Amazing! Though David would not have an unblemished testimony, though David would shed much blood and commit some acts of moral implosion, he would not be a man that lived in independence of the Spirit of God. From the day of David’s anointing, he would live his life as unto the Lord whom he adored. The man after God’s own heart would now begin moving toward his destiny as the man on Israel’s throne. This is how his story begins.