

FPFWC Christian Development



Out of Slavery to Nationhood

October 2022

Fall Quarter

October 29, 2022

Lesson #5 – David Anointed as King

SCRIPTURE TEXT – 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Key Verse – “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

ICE BREAKER –

1. *What qualities should we look for in our leaders, particularly in the church?*
2. *What do you learn from situations in which you were passed over for promotion or other position of authority?*

LESSON BACKGROUND

Much of the context for this lesson is shared with that of lesson 8. Israel’s first king, Saul, was identified by the Lord and anointed by Samuel. But Saul overstepped his role and failed to obey the Lord (1 Samuel 13:7b–14; 15:2–33). Saul increasingly demonstrated the downfalls of having a king at all. As a result the Lord regretted choosing Saul and decided to find another king (15:35).

The events in this lesson occurred sometime during Saul’s 40-year reign, which lasted from 1050 to 1010 BC. David’s reign would not begin until 1010 BC, but it was known to Saul and his family long before then that they were not the start of a dynasty in Israel (1 Samuel 23:16–17).

LESSON COMMENTARY

16:1–3. Although Samuel continued to grieve over Saul’s disobedience, God was ready to do something new. This is a momentous point in the narrative, bringing onto the scene the central character of the rest of 1 Samuel and all of 2 Samuel. Saul did not have God’s will, interests, and glory at heart, so God selected a person who did—a shepherd boy who became the shepherd of all of Israel (cf. 2Sm 5:2, Brueggemann, *First and Second Samuel*, 119). God selected as king the youngest son of Jesse of Bethlehem, called **Jesse the Bethlehemite** (v. 1). When Samuel expressed his apprehension to the Lord about doing what God had just told him to do, the Lord did not dismiss Samuel’s fears. He told Samuel how to proceed.

16:4–5. The elders were a group of older and experienced men who were responsible for the leadership of the city. Consecrating oneself meant “to set oneself apart to God.” Consecration involved ceremonial cleansing and abstaining from certain foods and sex with their wives. Consecration was necessary because of the solemnity of the occasion before the Lord. Samuel invited two groups of people to the sacrifice: the elders of Bethlehem and Jesse and his sons.

16:6–7. Observing Eliab, Jesse’s eldest son (cf. 1Ch 2:13), Samuel concluded, **Surely the LORD’s anointed is before Him.** Samuel may have thought of Saul’s impressive physical appearance, but that is not what the Lord was seeing. He was looking at the heart. He chooses His servants based on their inner lives, not on how they look.

16:8–10. All seven of Jesse’s sons passed before Samuel from the oldest to the youngest, but the Lord had not chosen any of them.

16:11–13. This posed a problem for Samuel, so he asked, **Are these all the children?** Jesse responded that he had one more son, **the youngest** in the family. He was **tending the sheep**, and his father did not even mention his name. So David was sent for, and he was God’s choice. David was ruddy, that is, he was tan from working and living outdoors, and he was **handsome**. How much David’s family understood about what happened is not important. Samuel anointed David as king and then went home **to Ramah**.

LESSON NUGGET –

We must reject what God rejects: You would expect Samuel to mourn over Saul and his sin (1 Cor. 5:1-2), but mourning alone will not solve problems.

We must See as God Sees: How strange that Samuel had not learned his lesson after the failure of Saul. God told Samuel that He would tell him the man of His choice (v.3), but the old man was tempted to run ahead of the Lord. The heart determines the life (Prov. 4:23), and only God can see the heart (Acts 1:24-25).

Sources: Moody Bible Commentary, Standard Lesson Commentary, Wiersbe Study Bible and The Essential Everyday Bible Commentary