

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 1

To obey
is better
than
sacrifice.



DAVID IS ANOINTED KING

Scripture Text: 1 Samuel 16

Man's judgment cannot be compared with God's, because man cannot see as God sees. Knowing this, Samuel sought God's counsel in all matters, not trusting his own. This was his secret of success as a prophet.

This principle is still true today. The same success will be the result of our following it. We cannot afford not to follow it. Possession of the Holy Spirit is a requirement for making the right choices.

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 16:1-5 How long wilt thou mourn . . . ? God had rejected Saul from reigning over Israel. No doubt Samuel's grief was hindering his service to God, was filling too much of his thoughts. He could do nothing to change Saul's condition. The Lord knew that Samuel would benefit by having some task to do. **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. God will never allow anything man attempts to alter His plan. He put His plan into Samuel's hand to help carry it out. God's plan is always definite and complete. One of Jesse's sons was to be king. It belonged to God to provide or choose a ruler. The ruler was His to serve His purpose.

Samuel's last message from God to Saul had been very offensive to Saul. It had caused so much tension that Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death (**1 Samuel 15:35**). Saul felt jealousy toward whoever would take his place and suspicion toward Samuel, the probable one to anoint a new king. Samuel feared for his life should he do it with Saul's knowledge. His coming caused trembling in Bethlehem. The elders were thinking of Samuel's authority, and Saul's feelings, and were fearful to make any move. The Lord shielded the anointing from Saul's detection by ordering a sacrifice at the same time. Samuel prepared as told.

Jesse and 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**).

Seven Sons Pass By

1 Samuel 16:6-10 The first to come before Samuel was the eldest son, Eliab. Samuel saw his fine physique and handsome face. "What a king he will make!" he thought. God thought differently because He saw differently. He looked on Eliab's heart which was not as beautiful as his body. In the heart is the preparation for life, whatever course that life follows. It was the same with all seven sons. Try to imagine how perplexing this must have been for Samuel. Yet he listened and waited on the Lord.

The Lord knew who He wanted for king before they passed in review, but He let Samuel view all before revealing His choice. Why? Perhaps it was to clarify Samuel's thoughts, to insure against later doubts as to the correctness of the choice. Perhaps to illustrate forcibly 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 and God does not take it from us and overstep our will. If we make a choice by ourselves, we must take the consequence of that choice. It is good to listen to God's leading and obey.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 1

David Is Chosen

1 Samuel 16:11-13 Are here all. . . ? If so, had he misunderstood the Lord? No, there was one more, the youngest. He was keeping the sheep and was probably the least important to Jesse. However, he was most important to God. He too was **of a beautiful countenance, and goodly** outwardly. The Lord chose him for his obedient heart (**1 Samuel 13:14; 1 Samuel 15:22-23**). The Lord loves obedience above all other things. He did not have Saul's faults of **rebellion** and **stubbornness**. Samuel anointed him. Now he was king, even though he did not begin to rule actively until some time later. **The Spirit of the Lord came upon David** and remained.

1 Samuel 16:14-23 God's plan for David to rule His kingdom was in motion. He was summoned to play before Saul and to be **his armour bearer**. This gave him useful acquaintance with the king's office. God was with him in slaying the lion and the bear before he faced Goliath and slew him (**1 Samuel 17:34-36**). God used these and many more victorious battles to prepare David to be Israel's greatest king.

What qualifications fit a man to rule a nation? With what did the Lord qualify both Saul and David? See **1 Samuel 10:10; 1 Samuel 16:13**. This is more than the attributes usually considered essential today. God wants a disposition to obey Him rooted in our inmost beings.

JUST A THOUGHT

**The diamond cannot be polished without friction,
nor man perfected without trials.**