

Bi235 Old Testament 2

Lesson Bi235-16 Samuel Anoints David

God often chooses unlikely leaders for his people. Jacob was a deceiver. Joseph was nearly the youngest of Jacob's sons. Gideon was hiding in the hills when God's angel found him. Samson was chosen before he was born. Samuel was called by God when still a boy. David was the youngest of eight sons of Jesse, but he was the one God chose.

In Lesson 15 we learned that God had anointed Saul as the first king of Israel. After a good and godly beginning of his reign, Saul rebelled against God. Through Samuel God told Saul that he would be replaced by "a man after God's own heart" (1Sam 13:14). Saul continued to rule for many years, but change was coming, and it was coming through the prophet Samuel.

Samuel had no more to do with King Saul, but he was sad about God's rejection of Saul. Some time went by, and Yahweh spoke to Samuel again, "Stop mourning for Saul. Fill your anointing vessel with oil and be on your way. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king" (1Sam 16:1). Bethlehem was a tiny village about 16 kilometers (10 miles) away from Samuel's home in Ramah.

Samuel protested, "I can't go, or Saul will have me killed."

God said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to offer sacrifice to Yahweh,' and I will show you what to do."

So Samuel walked to Bethlehem. The elders of the village were afraid of Samuel. "Did you come in peace," they asked.

"Yes, in peace," he replied. "Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice, too.

You may remember that Bethlehem was located in the tribal area of Judah. Long ago the patriarch Judah had offered to be a slave to the governor of Egypt to save his brother Benjamin. Caleb, one of the faithful spies, was a Judahite, as was the deliverer Othniel. So Judah had a history of heroes. Bethlehem was also the location of the story of Boaz and Ruth. In fact, Jesse was the grandson of Boaz and Ruth. He probably had grown up with the stories of his grandparents' love for God and for each other.

When Jesse and his sons arrived, Samuel took one look at the oldest son Eliab and thought, "This one must be the Lord's anointed."

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have not chosen him. Yahweh does not look at the things human beings look at. People look at the outward appearance, but Yahweh looks at the heart" (1Sam 16:7).

One by one seven of Jesse's sons were presented before Samuel. Each time Samuel said, "Yahweh has not chosen this one." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

Jesse said, "There is one more—the youngest. He's out in the field tending the sheep."

“Send for him,” said Samuel. “We won’t sit down until he arrives.”

They called David in from the field. Handsome and glowing with health, he came into the room and stood before Samuel. Then Yahweh told Samuel, “This is the one; rise up and anoint him.” So Samuel took the vessel of oil and anointed David in the presence of his brothers. From that day on, the Spirit of Yahweh came on David in power. David went on to become a powerful warrior. The earlier reference to a new leader being one “after God’s own heart” simply means that God had chosen him. It doesn’t mean that he was morally or spiritually godlike (1Sam16:8-13).

Moses had hoped that someday the Lord would send his Spirit on all people (Num 11:29). The prophet Joel predicted that God would pour out his Spirit on all flesh (Joel 2:28). In Old Testament times, the Holy Spirit came down and anointed certain people for service, like David. But in the New Testament, Jesus breathed on his disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:22). The anointing of the Holy Spirit is now for every believer.

In this way the Bible introduces us to one of the greatest Old Testament leaders. We are told more about David than any other leader in the Old Testament. The remaining chapters of First Samuel, all of Second Samuel, and the first two chapters of First Kings tell his stories—42 chapters in all. In addition, much of the book of First Chronicles is about David. As a poet and musician, David is said to have composed dozens of psalms, as well.

The life of David divides into five parts, based on the different places where he lived: (1) his life as a shepherd in Bethlehem, (2) his life in Saul’s court in Gibeah, (3) his life as an outlaw in the hill country of Judah and as a soldier with the Philistines, (4) his royal life at Hebron as king of Judah, and (5) his royal life at Jerusalem as king of the whole nation of Israel.

Of his early life, one of the psalms declares, “God chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds; from following the ewes great with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance. So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands” (Ps 78:70-72, KJV).

This story is **important** because it shows us how Yahweh continued to fulfill his promise to give Israel a land of their own, and to create in Israel a people for himself. God did this through a powerful and sometimes sinful leader, David, son of Jesse. David continued the process of defeating Israel’s enemies and bringing stability to the land.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that Saul proved that he was unsuitable as Israel’s king. Through Samuel, God chose David, a young man with the ambition and ability to become a great leader.

Let’s **review** this lesson—

1. Why did Saul prove to be an unsuitable king? [Pause]
 - A. If you said, “He did things his own way, rather than obeying God’s commands,” you are correct.
2. Why did God choose the youngest son of Jesse to be the next king? [Pause]

A. If you said, “God chose David because he knew that David could become an effective leader,” you are right.

3. What did God teach Samuel in this story? [Pause]

A. If you said, “Samuel was impressed by outward appearance, but God is impressed by inward potential,” you are correct.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to listen to it at least three times. As you hear the story each time, imagine how it happened. See the events in your own mind. Then tell the story in your own words as you remember it. Then listen to the story again and re-tell it until you feel sure you are repeating the words and actions correctly. You should spend at least 45 minutes in learning the story.

Memorize God’s words to Samuel, “People look at the outward appearance, but Yahweh looks at the heart” (First Samuel 16:7). Now share the story of David’s anointing with a believer who may be seeking to know God’s will. Help that person to understand that God calls people into service for him because he sees their heart. God does not judge by appearance or skills, family name or education, possessions, or anything else people may judge by. Pray with that person. Ask God to help you both to have a heart pleasing to him.