

The Story of David's Secret Anointing as King and His Service in Saul's Court: God Judges the Heart, Not the Appearance of a Person 1 Samuel 16:01–23

1. *The mission of Samuel*

to arise and anoint a new king: Conquering grief and sorrow

- a. The LORD's rebuke of Samuel:
He had grieved over His rejection of Saul far too long
- b. The protest by Samuel:
He feared that if he went to Bethlehem Saul would kill him
- c. The LORD's solution:
He was to go for the purpose of offering a sacrifice to prevent Saul from being suspicious
 - 1) To invite Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice
 - 2) To anoint the son indicated by God
- d. The obedience of Samuel
- e. The fear felt by Bethlehem's officials
 - 1) They feared Samuel had come to execute judgment
 - 2) Samuel assured them he had come to offer sacrifice, and he charged them to consecrate themselves
 - 3) Samuel consecrated Jesse and his sons

- 1 The LORD said to Samuel,
"How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn 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."
- 2 But Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me."
The LORD said,
"Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'"
- 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."
- 4 Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?"
- 5 Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

**2. The secret anointing of David:
Being empowered by God's Spirit**

a. The choice of Samuel

- 1) He chose the first-born
- 2) He was rebuked by God:
God had not chosen
Eliab to be king

b. The basic qualification
of God for service:
Not physical appearance,
but the heart

c. The choice of the father Jesse:
He brought each of his seven
sons before Samuel

- 1) Abinadab: Was rejected
- 2) Shammah was rejected

- 3) All seven sons
brought by Jesse were rejected

d. The choice of the LORD:
The youngest son

- 1) Samuel was perplexed:
Asked Jesse if he had
any other sons
- 2) David, the youngest,
had been left tending the sheep
- 3) Samuel immediately
sent for David:
When he arrived, he was seen
to have striking features
- 4) The LORD identified David
as His choice to be king

6 When they arrived,
Samuel saw Eliab and thought,
“Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here
before the LORD.”

7 But the LORD said to Samuel,
“Do not consider his appearance or his height,
for I have rejected him.
The LORD does not look at the things
people look at.
People look at the outward appearance,
but the LORD looks at the heart.”

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab
and had him pass in front of Samuel.
But Samuel said,
“The LORD has not chosen this one either.”

9 Jesse then had Shammah pass by,
but Samuel said,
“Nor has the LORD chosen this one.”

10 Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel,
but Samuel said to him,
“The LORD has not chosen these.”

11 So he asked Jesse,
“Are these all the sons you have?”
“There is still the youngest,”
Jesse answered.
“He is tending the sheep.”
Samuel said, “Send for him;
we will not sit down until he arrives.”

12 So he sent for him and had him brought in.
He was glowing with health
and had a fine appearance
and handsome features.
Then the LORD said,
“Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”

e. The secret anointing of David

- 1) He was anointed
in the presence of his brothers
- 2) He was equipped, empowered
by the Spirit of the LORD

**3. *The beginning of David's
preparation to be king:
A picture of God's sovereignty***

a. The removal of God's Spirit
from Saul

- 1) The advice of Saul's attendants:
To find a harpist
who could soothe Saul
(spiritually, mentally
and emotionally)

- 2) Saul agreed and ordered
that a musician be found

b. The introduction
of David's name to Saul

- 1) One of Saul's attendants
knew about David,
his qualifications and abilities

- 2) Saul was impressed
and sent for David

c. The beginning of David's
service in Saul's court

- 1) Jesse sent a gift to Saul
along with his son David

13 So Samuel took the horn of oil
and anointed him
in the presence of his brothers,
and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD
came powerfully upon David.
Samuel then went to Ramah.

14 Now the Spirit of the LORD
had departed from Saul,
and an evil spirit from the LORD
tormented him.

15 Saul's attendants said to him,
"See, an evil spirit from God
is tormenting you.

16 Let our lord command his servants here
to search for someone who can play the lyre.
He will play when the evil spirit from God
comes on you, and you will feel better."

17 So Saul said to his attendants,
"Find someone who plays well
and bring him to me."

18 One of the servants answered,
"I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem
who knows how to play the lyre.
He is a brave man and a warrior.
He speaks well and is a fine-looking man.
And the LORD is with him."

19 Then Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said,
"Send me your son David,
who is with the sheep."

20 So Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread,
a skin of wine and a young goat
and sent them with his son David to Saul.

2) Saul was impressed with David

- He made David one of his armour-bearers
- He asked Jesse to allow his son to become a permanent member of his court

3) David played the harp for Saul

- He played when some mental disturbance — the evil spirit — came upon him
- He was able to soothe, bring relief to King Saul

21 David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much, and David became one of his armour-bearers.

22 Then Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, “Allow David to remain in my service, for I am pleased with him.”

23 Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would take up his lyre and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.