

Exegetical Notes – 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen for Cornerstone Fellowship

101 Kylies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320

610-384-1375

charleshjensen@aol.com

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Verses 1-3

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.”

- God had rejected Saul as Israel’s king. Samuel, Israel’s spiritual leader, was still mourning over God’s rejection of Saul. But God was ready to move on. He instructed Samuel to fill his horn with anointing oil and to go to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem. God informed Samuel that he had chosen one of Jesse’s sons to be Israel’s new king. Samuel was to anoint this son of Jesse, king. God did not reveal which of Jesse’s sons was his choice.
- Samuel was afraid to do what God instructed him to do because he knew Saul’s nature. He assumed that Saul would kill him if he heard about this anointing of a new king.
- YHWH told Samuel to go to Bethlehem to offer sacrifice. God told Samuel to do what he said and that He would lead Samuel step by step. Samuel was to anoint the one God indicated as Israel’s king.

Verses 4-5

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.

- Samuel obeyed YHWH. He went to Bethlehem. The Elders of that town knew about the rift between Samuel and King Saul. So, when Samuel came to their town they were worried about the purpose of his coming.
- He reassured them that he had come in peace and that they need not be concerned about his being there.
- He then told them to prepare to offer sacrifice to God with him for that was his purpose in coming to Bethlehem. He invited Jesse and his sons, personally, to be present at the ceremony.

Verses 6-11

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."

- When Jesse and his sons arrived at the celebration, Samuel saw Eliab, Jesse's first born son, and thought that Eliab must be the one God would choose to be king. But God told Samuel that Eliab was not the one. He told Samuel to stop looking at outward things like physical beauty. God told Samuel that he looked at a man's heart.
- When all of Jesse's sons present had passed before Samuel, none of them received God's approval. Confused, Samuel asked Jesse if all of his sons were present at the feast. He discovered that Jesse had left his youngest son at home to tend the sheep. Samuel instructed Jesse to bring his youngest son to him.

Verses 12-13

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."

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.

- David, Jesse's youngest son, was brought to Samuel. YHWH told Samuel that David was His choice, that he was the one Samuel should anoint to be Israel's new king.
- Samuel anointed David as Israel's new king. The Holy Spirit descended upon David powerfully.
- Samuel, having been obedient to YHWH, went home.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon based on 1 Samuel 16:1-13. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. All rights are reserved by Cornerstone Fellowship & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)