

Evotional

Date: 5th August 2007 (pm).

Speaker: Neil Durling.

Message title: "David and Samuel."



Bible passage: 1 Samuel 16:1-13:

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." But Samuel said, "How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me." The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate." 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?" 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. When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD'S anointed stands here before the LORD." 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 man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these." So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one." 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 upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.

The message in brief:

Samuel anointed Saul as king; this was a high point of Samuel's career as God's prophet. When we come to this passage Saul has fallen out of favour with God but continues to reign without His backing. Samuel is told by God to stop wallowing in perceived failure and go d and anoint God's chosen man to be the next king. God says he has provided a king (*ra'ah*: "seen into the future" or "got"). Samuel is scared of Saul and so goes to Bethlehem with a heifer for a sacrifice; God allows deception (!).

When Samuel arrives the elders are worried: Why: Because it's Samuel or because of their wrong doing or because of the political implications of his arrival? Jesse and his sons arrive and Samuel is impressed by Eliab because of his height and looks (Saul was a head taller than all men). God reminds Samuel that humanity looks at the outward appearance but God looks at the heart. Abinadab, Shammah and the rest of the seven sons are rejected as king. "Are there any others?" asks Samuel. "There's the *Haqqaton*." Notice; no name is given, just the youngest, the baby brother, the runt of low standing. Samuel makes them wait for him and when he come sin from looking after he sheep in the fields he is anointed king.

Thoughts from Samuel:

- 1: Pain of past failings:** He struggled to get over the failure of Saul.
- 2: Fear of the present:** He is worried of Saul's power to destroy him.
- 3: Obedience for the future:** Despite of the past and present Samuel obeys God which affects the future.

Thoughts from David:

- 1: Appearance is irrelevant to God:** Eliab's good looks don't impress God, nor do David's. It is his heart that God sees and chooses.
- 2: Credentials matter little to God:** To be sure God will give more to those who do well with less but God isn't limited by how good we or others think we are.
- 3: Spiritual anointing from God:** David needed to be "divinely equipped" for the adventure he would face. We too need God's power. We cannot run on yesterday's blessings when serving God.

Question:

How do we know what God is asking us to do so that we can obey Him? God has given us five buoys to guide us:

- 1:** The Bible. **2:** Prayer. **3:** "Gut" feeling. **4:** Circumstances. **5:** Others opinions. If we have "three" lined up God is possibly guiding us; "four" get going; "five" what are you waiting for!

A prayer:

Father God,
Thank you choosing people like us and guiding us into the adventures you have for us.
Amen.