

## David Anointed as King

Many eyes in the restaurant followed Jemila to the restroom. Some discreetly and a few, mostly men, just oogling.

Jemila was not just beautiful—she was gorgeous. She was a friend of Hakeem’s cousin Auriel. Auriel had brought Jemila to a family picnic in July, and Hakeem had been smitten by her good looks on sight.

He was stunned to learn she did not have a boyfriend. Hakeem was equally surprised when Jemila was receptive to his attention and budding affections. Although Hakeem was a young, reasonably good-looking, up-and-coming business executive, he thought Jemila could have easily been with a celebrity or someone really wealthy.

So, Hakeem had overlooked her spiritual deficits. She believed in God, but that was about it. For Hakeem, Christ had been center stage.

Hakeem’s friend Kenard had called him out about it. “The devil believes in God and trembles,” said Kenard. “Has she given her life to Christ? Are you two well-suited in your mission for Christ? What are you doing with this girl?”

Hakeem had been blindsided by Jemila’s beauty. *Who’s to say that one day she wouldn’t accept Christ?* he thought. Hakeem wanted Jemila. Didn’t the Lord want to make him happy?

Hakeem felt a struggle within himself that had grown faint since the previous months. He knew he would have to face his relationship with Jemila before it went too far and bring the Lord back to center stage.

- 1.** *What are some ways people place an importance on image above other aspects of life?*
- 2.** *When have you seen someone judged on appearances rather than character?*
- 3.** *Why do we tend to focus on outward appearances?*

**LESSON FOCUS:** Don’t settle for good looking, but look to God instead.

## God's Command to Samuel

*1 Samuel 16:1-5, KJV*

1 And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

2 And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD.

3 And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee.

4 And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably?

5 And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

*1 Samuel 16:1-5, NIV*

<sup>1</sup>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."

<sup>2</sup>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.'"<sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."

<sup>4</sup>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?"

<sup>5</sup>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.

First Samuel 16 begins with Samuel still grieving over Saul's failure as king. Finally, God intervened and commanded Samuel to take his anointing olive oil and go

to Bethlehem. It was the widespread practice in Bible times to anoint persons and things that were consecrated, or set apart, for service to God. The Lord revealed to Samuel that at Bethlehem he would find a man named Jesse. He was the father of eight sons and two daughters (1 Chron. 2:13-16; 27:18). The Lord explained that He had chosen one of Jesse's sons to be Israel's new king.

Samuel's immediate concern was that Saul might try to kill him for seeking a new king, but the Lord had Samuel combine looking for a king with offering a sacrifice, to which Samuel would invite Jesse. The Lord explained that at the sacrifice He would disclose which of Jesse's sons Saul was to anoint as king.

In Bethlehem, the town elders greeted Samuel with fear and suspicion. Because Samuel was a judge over Israel, the elders may have been concerned that Samuel had come as judge (see 7:16), and would punish them for some offense.

Samuel reassured the town elders that he had come in peace to offer sacrifices to the Lord. Samuel then instructed them to consecrate themselves for the ritual sacrifice, while Samuel consecrated Jesse and his sons before the sacrifice.

**4.** *How did the Lord end Samuel's mourning for Saul?*

**5.** *What was the basis for Samuel offering a sacrifice in Bethlehem?*

## Samuel's Search for a New King

*1 Samuel 16:6-10, KJV*

6 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him.

7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for

*1 Samuel 16:6-10, NIV*

<sup>6</sup>When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD'S anointed stands here before the LORD."

<sup>7</sup>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

man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

9 Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

10 Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these.

things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

<sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either."

<sup>9</sup>Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the LORD chosen this one."<sup>10</sup>Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these."

When Samuel saw the height and handsome form of Jesse's son Eliab, Samuel thought he must be the one God had chosen, perhaps because Saul stood a head taller than his fellow Israelites. However, the Lord made it clear to Samuel that, though people often judge just by outward appearances, for God it was the heart—the character of a person—that really mattered.

When Jesse had his son Abinadab step forward, Samuel said that God had not chosen this person to replace Saul as king either. In fact, Samuel declared the same thing about Shammah and all the rest of Jesse's first seven sons.

**6.** *What did Samuel learn about God's process for choosing Israel's next king?*

**7.** *What became clear as each of Jesse's first seven sons were presented to Samuel?*

## Samuel's Anointing of David

1 Samuel 16:11-13, KJV

11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy

1 Samuel 16:11-13, NIV

<sup>11</sup>So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

“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.”

<sup>12</sup>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.”

<sup>13</sup>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.

When Samuel asked if Jesse had any other sons, Jesse said his youngest son, David, was out in the fields caring for the sheep. Jesse seemed to have overlooked David because he was the youngest son. Perhaps Jesse thought that whatever Samuel wanted, it would not involve a young shepherd boy.

From verse 12 we learn that David was “ruddy” (KJV), with attractive eyes and a handsome appearance. The term “ruddy” probably referred to reddish hair and complexion. The young lad was anointed to become Israel’s next king. After that, Samuel returned to his hometown of Ramah in Ephraim, while the Spirit of the Lord came upon David with power so that he would be effective as the next king of Israel.

**8.** *Whom was Jesse to summon to Bethlehem?*

**9.** *What took place when David arrived at the event?*

## Look to God

Samuel traveled to Bethlehem to offer a sacrifice and to anoint God's chosen one as the next king of Israel. At first, Samuel slipped into a natural human tendency and looked at outward appearances. Jesse's first son, Eliab, came before Samuel, and he thought Eliab was God's anointed due to his height and outward appearance. God reminded Samuel that He looks at a person's heart—who he is internally. We often gravitate to someone who is good looking before considering who they are as a person.

God asked Samuel to combine state business with an act of faith in the form of offering a sacrifice. It's always best to keep God in mind when conducting earthly business. An awareness that God looks on the heart and values relationship with Him will help us remember to include Him in all we do.

God's qualifications for choosing someone for a particular task often differ from our ideas. God directed Samuel to anoint David as Israel's next leader. Kings, along with prophets and priests, were anointed with oil to signify they were set apart for service to God. God chose David as a leader who would serve Him and His people, because He saw David's heart.

Samuel listened to God and followed His lead. He didn't focus solely on outward appearances but instead looked to God for direction in anointing Israel's next king. When a choice before us might be swayed by outward appearances, we would do well to follow Samuel's example and look to God for guidance.

**10.** *Why are outward appearances often so deceiving about what a person is really like?*

**11.** *How do God's qualifications for those in leadership differ from ours?*

**12.** *What are some ways we can look to God in daily life rather than focusing on outward appearances?*

## Making Choices

We constantly say we're all individuals, but we tend to follow the crowd rather than God. Jeremiah reminds us that our heart is deceitful, devious, and untrustworthy (Jer. 17:9). We can strive to "look at the heart," as God does, but our view may still be faulty. Only God knows the true nature of our heart, so our best choice is to look to Him for guidance.

► *Decide to look to God when faced with a choice or decision this week. It may help to complete this sentence:*

*I commit to look to God for His perspective by \_\_\_\_\_ when faced with a choice to \_\_\_\_\_.*

### KEY VERSE

But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

—1 Samuel 16:7, KJV

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."

—1 Samuel 16:7, NIV

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S LESSON

#### Week of October 31 through November 6

(See *The Quiet Hour* and *Cross* devotionals on these passages.)

- Mon.** Acts 19:1-12— Receive the Holy Spirit.
- Tue.** Acts 19:13-20— Renounce Sinful Practices.
- Wed.** Psalm 27— God Is My Light and Salvation.
- Thu.** Esther 4:5-17— Chosen in God's Providence.
- Fri.** Deuteronomy 7:1-11— You Are God's Chosen People.
- Sat.** John 14:1-14— The Way, the Truth, the Life.
- Sun.** Ephesians 1:1-14— God's Eternal Plan of Salvation.