

Today:

December 22, 2013

Scripture Focus: 1 Samuel 16-17

God addressed Samuel: “So, how long are you going to mope over Saul? You know I’ve rejected him as king over Israel. Fill your flask with anointing oil and get going. I’m sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I’ve spotted the very king I want among his sons.” “I can’t do that,” said Samuel. “Saul will hear about it and kill me.” God said, “Take a heifer with you and announce, ‘I’ve come to lead you in worship of God, with this heifer as a sacrifice.’ Make sure Jesse gets invited. I’ll let you know what to do next. I’ll point out the one you are to anoint.”

Samuel did what God told him. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the town fathers greeted him, but apprehensively. “Is there something wrong?” “Nothing’s wrong. I’ve come to sacrifice this heifer and lead you in the worship of God. Prepare yourselves, be consecrated, and join me in worship.” He made sure Jesse and his sons were also consecrated and called to worship.

*When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, “Here he is! God’s anointed!” But God told Samuel, “Looks aren’t everything. Don’t be impressed with his looks and stature. I’ve already eliminated him. God judges persons differently than humans do. Men and women look at the face; God looks into the heart.” Jesse then called up Abinadab and presented him to Samuel. Samuel said, “This man isn’t God’s choice either.” Next Jesse presented Shammah. Samuel said, “No, this man isn’t either.” Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel. Samuel was blunt with Jesse, “God hasn’t chosen any of these.” Then he asked Jesse, “Is this it? Are there no more sons?” “Well, yes, there’s the runt. But he’s out tending the sheep.” Samuel ordered Jesse, “Go get him. We’re not moving from this spot until he’s here.” Jesse sent for him. He was brought in, the very picture of health—bright-eyed, good-looking. God said, “Up on your feet! Anoint him! This is the one.” **Samuel took his flask of oil and anointed him, with his brothers standing around watching. The Spirit of God entered David like a rush of wind, God vitally empowering him for the rest of his life.***

(1 Samuel 16:1-13a, Message)

Notes from Worship:

(What caught your attention? What do you want to reflect on more this week?)

Notes from Formation Station:

(Discussion, Bible Study, Drama, Biblical People)

Family Discussion Questions:

- What does God see in David that makes him ready to be king over Israel and Judah?
- What does it mean for Jesus to be God’s Anointed? What does it mean for us today?

This Week: **December 16-21**

Scripture Readings:

Monday 12/16	Tuesday 12/17	Wednesday 12/18	Thursday 12/19	Friday 12/20	Saturday 12/21
2 Samuel 1-4	Psalms 6, 9-10, 14, 16, 21	1 Chronicles 1-2; Psalms 43-44	Psalms 49, 84, 85, 87	1 Chronicles 3-5	1 Chronicles 6; Psalms 36, 39, 77-78

Questions for Reflection:

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

Monday

- What new things do you learn about David in these chapters?

Tuesday

- What do you think of these Psalms of David in light of the story of David we have been reading about in First and Second Samuel?

Wednesday

- What jumps out to you in the historical records presented in 1 Chronicles 1-2?

Thursday

- These Psalms are attributed to the Sons of Korah. How are they different than Psalms of David? What catches your attention the most?

Friday

- Even though we aren't familiar with many of the names in these chapters, what thoughts come to mind when you read through these family trees?

Saturday

- If you were to write a Psalm, what would it sound like? Would it be more focused on lament, praise, or thanksgiving?

Scripture Memory:

As we continue our study of Israel's Kings, our second key memory passage is ***Micah 6:6-8***. In only a few verses, this passage summarizes the heart of what many of the prophets teach to God's people during the time of the kings. Let us not only put these verses to memory, but let us also take them to heart so that we can live them out.

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Next Sunday: December 22

Theme: Choral Christmas

Scripture Focus: *Isaiah 7:10-15, Matthew 1:18-25*