



GOD OF THE FATHERLESS

The Story Of God
& Samuel



Yes, No & Maybe

1. I have no problem at all making decisions.
2. In the past month, I have said, "I don't care. What restaurant would you like to go to?"
3. If you reject God's decisions, He will reject yours.
4. God makes all of my major decisions.
5. Everyone can be anointed and have supernatural powers.

Dig Deeper

➤ READ 1 Samuel 16:1-13 (NIV)

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.

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."

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.

A WHOLE LOT OF REJECTION:

➤ **16:1 I have rejected him as king** - God had permitted the people to have the king of their choice. Now that that king and their mistake in choosing him had been clearly manifested, God proved the superiority of His own wisdom in raising up a king who would come in fulfillment of His perfect will.

- How does this echo how God responded to Adam & Eve's choice of a different ruler?

MY KINGDOM COME:

➤ **16:1 I have chosen one of his sons to be [my] king.** - God spoke of providing "for myself a king." Certainly he was

Notes

Dig Deeper... Continued

indicating that the king from among Jesse's sons was going to be rather different from Saul. The record of Saul's appointment repeatedly emphasizes that he was the king chosen *by the people for themselves*. "Appoint for us a king," the elders had said to Samuel (1 Samuel 8:5). Samuel had referred to the king they demanded as "*your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves*" (1 Samuel 8:18).

- God allows us to see the consequences of our choices and then provides positive alternative. What does it say about God that He still allows us the freedom of choice after generations of proof that we consistently make the wrong decisions?

» **16:4 The elders of the town trembled when they met [Samuel]. They asked, "Do you come in peace?"** - A heifer was typically used for an unsolved murder committed in a rural region (cf. Deut 21:1-9). Perhaps the elders "trembled" at the sight of Samuel because they interpreted Samuel's arrival with a heifer as an indication that a murder had occurred in their territory and that a legal action was being initiated. Some suggest the elders were frightened by his recent execution of Agag.

HE SAW/GOD SAW:

» **16:6,7 Do not consider his appearance or his height** - Samuel was impressed by Eliab's appearance or his height (v. 7) and concluded that "the LORD'S anointed stands here before the LORD" (v. 6). After all, he had previously been led by God to anoint an individual who possessed exceptional height (10:23).

» **16:7 People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart** - The Lord alone has the capacity to observe and judge a person's "heart" (Hebrew: *lēb*), that is, one's thoughts, emotions, and intents. On God's scales these matters outweigh all other aspects of a human life.

- How does God want us to make decisions, and how do you think He communicates His perspective when we are faced with choices?

» **16:11 There is still the youngest** - Jesse's description of the omitted son—David—as "smallest" places him in strong contrast to the rejected king. Since the Lord had just told Samuel not to consider "his height" (v. 7), the prophet was predisposed to interpret this description positively and perhaps as an indicator that the small shepherd would indeed be the Lord's anointed. With urgency he requested that Jesse's remaining son be brought in.

» **16:11 Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.** - This most likely means "go [or, sit] around the table." A literal translation of the Hebrew incorrectly suggests that they will not sit down to rest. It is also possible that the intended sense is "we will not go around [parade around] the altar before he comes." This would refer to beginning the rituals of the sacrifice.

» **16:13 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.** - The shapeless, invasive fluid used in the ceremony served fittingly as a symbol of the mystical presence of God. As the oil worked its way into the individual's hair and pores, it symbolized the divine presence entering into the one being anointed.

- Does God still provide His divine presence to people? To whom?

» This chapter is mostly about God. It provides one of the most fascinating examples of the Lord's inclination to choose "the lowly things of this world and the despised things"—to bring about His will. When this story concludes, a rural shepherd boy has become the Lord's anointed—"a brave man and a warrior" (v. 18) who uses his supernaturally enhanced abilities to overpower giants and even evil spirits.

- God chose from those who were not firstborn: Seth, Noah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Ephraim, Moses, and perhaps Abraham. What does it say about God that He seems to prefer using people who would not be the predicted members of society?

My Prayer...

1. How am I making choices based on my vision, and not relying on God's?
2. How can I allow God to use me, even though I see so much of my own imperfections?
3. What new aspect of God's character does He want me to know?

