Lesson 68 – Anointing of David

based on 1 Samuel 16:1-13

1) What had happened to Saul, King of Israel, in the last lesson?
   1 Samuel 15:23 …Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.
2) What did God tell Samuel a short time thereafter?
   1 Samuel 16:1 And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou _____ for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with _____, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

A few miles south of Jerusalem, ***"the city of the great King,"*** is Bethlehem, where David, the son of Jesse, was born more than a thousand years before the infant Jesus was cradled in the manger and worshiped by the Wise Men from the East. Centuries before the advent of the Saviour, David, in the freshness of boyhood, kept watch of his flocks as they grazed on the hills surrounding Bethlehem. The simple shepherd boy sang the songs of his own composing, and the music of his harp made a sweet accompaniment to the melody of his fresh young voice. The Lord had chosen David, and was preparing him, in his solitary life with his flocks, for the work He designed to commit to his trust in after years.

3) What was Samuel's reply to the LORD?
   1 Samuel 16:2 And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will _____ me. And the LORD said, Take an _____ with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD.

The Heifer was an important sacrifice symbolizing the cleansing of a village or a group of people

4) How was Samuel received?
   1 Samuel 16:4-5 And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town _____ at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably? And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: _____ yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

The elders accepted an invitation to the sacrifice, and Samuel called also Jesse and his sons. The altar was built and the sacrifice was ready. All the household of Jesse were present, with the exception of David, the youngest son, who had been left to guard the sheep, for it was not safe to leave the flocks unprotected.

5) What were Samuel's instructions?
   1 Samuel 16:3 And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt _____ unto me him whom I name unto thee.
6) Jesse brought his family, what happened next?
   1 Samuel 16:6 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on _____, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him.

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When the sacrifice was ended, and before partaking of the offering feast, Samuel began his prophetic inspection of the noble-appearing sons of Jesse. Eliab was the eldest, and more nearly resembled Saul for stature and beauty than the others. His comely features and finely developed form attracted the attention of the prophet.

7) What was the council given Samuel from the LORD?
1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his _____, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD _____ not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Jehovah did not look upon the outward appearance. Eliab did not fear the Lord. Had he been called to the throne, he would have been a proud, exacting ruler.

The thoughts and ways of God in relation to His creatures are above our finite minds; but we may be assured that His children will be brought to fill the very place for which they are qualified and will be enabled to accomplish the very work committed to their hands, if they will but submit their will to God, that His beneficent plans may not be frustrated by the perversity of man.

8) What happened next?
1 Samuel 16:8 Then Jesse called _____, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.
1 Samuel 16:9 Then Jesse made _____ to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.
1 Samuel 16:10 Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these.
9) Puzzled by all this, what did Samuel ask Jesse?
1 Samuel 16:11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and _____ him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

The lonely shepherd was startled by the unexpected call of the messenger, who announced that the prophet had come to Bethlehem and had sent for him. With surprise he questioned why the prophet and judge of Israel should desire to see him; but without delay he obeyed the call.

10) How does the Bible describe David as a youth?
1 Samuel 16:12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was _____, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

David had proved himself brave and faithful in the humble office of a shepherd, and now God had chosen him to be captain of His people.

11) What did Samuel do?
1 Samuel 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of _____, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the _____ of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

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Samuel had not made known his errand, even to the family of Jesse, and the ceremony of anointing David had been performed in secret. It was an intimation to the youth of the high destiny awaiting him, that amid all the varied experiences and perils of his coming years, this knowledge might inspire him to be true to the purpose of God to be accomplished by his life.

The great honor conferred upon David did not serve to elate him. Notwithstanding the high position which he was to occupy, he quietly continued his employment, content to await the development of the Lord's plans in His own time and way. As humble and modest as before his anointing, the shepherd boy returned to the hills and watched and guarded his flocks as tenderly as ever. But with new inspiration he composed his melodies and played upon his harp.

In contemplation of God and His works the faculties of David's mind and heart were developing and strengthening for the work of his afterlife. He was daily coming into a more intimate communion with God. His mind was constantly penetrating into new depths for fresh themes to inspire his song and to wake the music of his harp. The rich melody of his voice poured out upon the air, echoed from the hills as if responsive to the rejoicing of the angels' songs in heaven.

12) Who Followed a similar path?
Exodus 2:15 Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of _____…

Man would have dispensed with that long period of toil and obscurity, deeming it a great loss of time. But Infinite Wisdom called him who was to become the leader of his people to spend forty years in the humble work of a shepherd. The habits of caretaking, of self-forgetfulness and tender solicitude for his flock, thus developed, would prepare him to become the compassionate, longsuffering shepherd of Israel. No advantage that human training or culture could bestow could be a substitute for this experience.

David, in the beauty and vigor of his young manhood, was preparing to take a high position with the noblest of the earth. His talents, as precious gifts from God, were employed to extol the glory of the divine Giver. His opportunities of contemplation and meditation served to enrich him with that wisdom and piety that made him beloved of God and angels. As he contemplated the perfections of his Creator, clearer conceptions of God opened before his soul. Obscure themes were illuminated, difficulties were made plain, perplexities were harmonized, and each ray of new light called forth fresh bursts of rapture, and sweeter anthems of devotion, to the glory of God and the Redeemer.

13) What did David learn in those quiet trying times?
Psalm 23:1-2 The LORD is my _____; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he _____ me beside the still waters.
Psalm 23:3-4 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of _____ for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will _____ no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Psalm 23:5-6 Thou _____ a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will _____ in the house of the LORD for ever.

Can you see that the way to heaven isn't always puppies and roses?

Would you like God to prepare you for your destiny?

When is it time to humble yourself before the LORD?

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