

Sermon Notes

Godless or God-Filled - His Presence Makes All the Difference 1 Samuel 16:14-23

Last week we saw God begin to initiate His plan by anointing His king. God sent His prophet Samuel to go to Bethlehem to anoint one of Jesse's sons. David was the youngest and the last one anyone thought would be the next king. God sees differently. His ways are higher. And as we will see in today's passage, God's Presence makes all the difference.

The moment God's spirit left Saul, to his surprise, his life changed dramatically. Saul was "the man", living as if he didn't need God or anyone else. He would learn that choosing sin and rejecting God was costly. But God was still working on behalf of his people, and He would use His new chosen king. The man after God's own heart would demonstrate that God's king (His spiritual leader for His people) would be a servant, even to the rejected king. Again, God's Presence makes all the difference!

- A. Saul The Spirit-less Rejected King
 - 1. Saul is tormented by an evil (harmful) spirit. (vs. 14-15)
 - 2. Saul is taking advice from servants instead of listening to the Lord. (vs. 15-16)
 - 3. Saul needed to be provided for. (vs. 17)
- B. David The Spirit-Filled Chosen King
 - 1. A Spirit-Enhanced Resume (vs. 13, 18)
 - 2. A Spirit-Enabled Ministry (vs. 19-23)

Life Group Preparation Guide

"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you(all) richly teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom..." - Colossians 3:16a

- Focus #I: GOD

- / What does this passage reveal about the character or nature of God?
- \mathcal{L} What does this passage reveal about God's eternal plans and purposes?
- 3. What does this passage reveal about how God interacts with his creation?

Focus #2: ME -

- 4. How does this passage reveal sin in my own mind, heart, or life?
- \mathcal{S} In what ways does this passage help us to see how we need to be aligned with God's will?
- δ . What is one tangible and measurable way that the Spirit is leading me to respond to his Word?

Focus #3: OTHERS

- 7. What is one truth that I can share meaningfully with someone, and with whom?
- 8. How can I specifically encourage someone or everyone in my Life Group from this passage?

Three contributions (reflections, questions, observations, etc.) I plan to include in our next Life Group discussion:

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Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor Jason Engle: Pastor of Students & Discipleship Deborah Rudd: Children's Ministry Coordinator Yvonne Hager: Executive Assistant

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JUNE

17-27 Hungary Mission Trip 18 Family Dedication/Commissioning June 25 Communion June 26-July 6 Peru Mission Trip-Phase 2 JULY 1 Churchwide Picnic @ Mayo Park 12pm-4pm 4 Independence Day - Church Office Closed 24-28 CentriKid Summer Camp @ Ridgecrest 30 Communion 31-August 4 Be Do Tell Summer Camp @ Ft. Caswell