

Grace to you and peace ... from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.

¹ Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons." ² And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³ Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you." ⁴ So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶ So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD'S anointed is before Him." ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." ⁸ So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." ¹¹ And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here." ¹² So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

Text: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 A 1-13-19 Titus 3:3-7 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 Ps. 2 Resp. Ps.: 45
Hymns: 744, 339 (1-4), 341, 367

DAVID AND JESUS

1. didn't look like kings
2. were chosen by God
3. David was, and Jesus is, a shepherd
4. David was, and Jesus is, a king

Dear fellow believers in Christ,

Only a few weeks ago we celebrated the birth of God's Son, born in Bethlehem. Today we're going to talk about Jesus and about His well-known relative who was also born in Bethlehem: David.

Our text takes place back when Saul was king of Israel. Saul had repeatedly disobeyed God, and was unrepentant. Finally God rejected Saul as king, and gave him over to his unbelief (1 Sam. 16:14).

God told His prophet Samuel, *“Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons.”* God had chosen as Saul’s replacement one of the sons of a man named Jesse, who lived in Bethlehem.

Samuel replied, *“How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.”* Samuel was afraid that if King Saul heard about him anointing someone else to replace him, he would have Samuel put to death.

God told Samuel to say, *“I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.”* At that time the Ark of the Covenant wasn’t in the tabernacle. Under those circumstances, the sacrifice was an important part of the Prophet Samuel’s visit to any town. God had Samuel keep the other part of his visit secret to protect everyone from King Saul.

When Samuel got to Bethlehem the people were worried that God may have sent him to deliver some ‘bad news’ to them. Samuel told them he had come to offer a sacrifice with them and for them, which was a special blessing to them.

– 1 –

Samuel invited Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice. Samuel looked at Jesse’s son Eliab and thought he must be the one God had chosen. God told Samuel not to look at his appearance or how tall he was. God had not chosen him. God said, *“For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”* The choice of the new king would not be based on what Samuel could see with his eyes, but on what God sees in the heart.

Jesse had seven of his sons go before Samuel, but God hadn’t chosen any of them. Samuel asked Jesse if that was all of his sons. Jesse replied, *“There remains yet the youngest.”* Samuel had Jesse send him in. It was David. We’re told, *“He was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking.”* David was nice-looking, but he was just a ‘kid.’ He didn’t look like a king.

The Bible says about Jesus, *“He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him”* (Is. 53:2b). Jesus looked like a normal human being. Like David, Jesus didn’t look like a king. There was nothing in David’s or Jesus’ outward appearance that made them look like kings.

– 2 –

When God first told Samuel about a king to replace Saul God said, *“I have provided Myself a king.”* Samuel had thought that Jesse’s oldest son was the choice. Jesse had thought that his youngest son shouldn’t even be considered. But the choice was the Lord’s.

When Samuel saw David God said, *“Anoint him, for this is the one!”* In Bible times when someone was chosen to be a prophet, priest, or king he was anointed by having some olive oil poured on his head. God had told Samuel, *“You shall anoint for Me the one I name to you.”* David had been chosen by God to be king.

When David was anointed we’re told *“the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward.”* David believed in the Lord, so the Holy Spirit was already in him (1 Cor. 12:3). God gave David more of His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gave David the gifts he would need as king.

In the name Jesus Christ, Christ means “*anointed one*.” Earlier in our second Lesson we heard about Jesus’ baptism by John. Jesus’ baptism was His induction into His public ministry (which began at His conception). When Jesus was baptized His Father said, “*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased*” (Mt. 3:17). Jesus is the “*Anointed One*,” chosen and sent by His Father as our Lord and Savior. Peter says, “*God anointed [Jesus] with the Holy Spirit and with power*” (Ac. 10:38a). Jesus says, “*The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD*” (Lk. 4:18-19; cf. Is 61:1ff.). (“*The acceptable year of the LORD*” is God’s call not to ignore the Gospel but to believe it now, while we have the opportunity to hear it, and be saved.)

– 3 –

When Jesse told Samuel about David he said David was “*keeping the sheep*.” David was a shepherd. Some time later David told King Saul, “*When a lion or bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it [and killed it] and delivered the lamb from its mouth*” (1 Sam. 17:34-35). When he was a shepherd David risked his life to kill lions and bears in order to protect his sheep.

Like David, Jesus is a shepherd. Jesus says, “*I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep*” (Jn. 10:11). Jesus, our Good Shepherd, sacrificed His life on the cross and saved us from the devil, sin, death, and hell.

– 4 –

Some time after David was anointed, King Saul was killed in battle and David was made king in his place. David was a sinful human being who believed in God and trusted in Him for forgiveness and salvation. The Lord called David “*a man after His own heart*” (1 Sam. 13:14a). David was a good king who ruled his people according to God’s Word and will, and encouraged them to believe in God and follow Him. Under David the people fought and won victory after victory over their enemies.

The Bible calls Jesus Christ the “*King of kings and Lord of lords*” (Rev. 19:16). Jesus is our almighty heavenly King. Isaiah says about Jesus, “*Of the increase of His government or of peace there will be no end*” (Is. 9:7a). Jesus is our eternal King. Through His sinless life, His innocent suffering and death, and His resurrection Jesus fought and won the battle for us over sin, the devil, death, and hell. Jesus is the almighty, wise, loving Lord of our life, in Whom we have peace. Jesus will rule over us forever in the perfect peace and joy and glory of heaven.

David was born in Bethlehem. David’s Descendent, Jesus Christ, was also born there. David was a blessing from God to his people as their king. Jesus is God’s greatest blessing to our human race – our Savior and our heavenly King! Amen.