

“Samuel: The Anointing of David”

I Samuel 16:1-13

Introduction

The prophet we are going to talk about today is Samuel. He found Saul, the first king of Israel, and was also involved in the ascension of David, who was called the greatest king of all time. You could say he was a king maker.

Modern politicians are often known as kingmakers. They play a major role in the appointment of new prime ministers. For example, former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, even after his arrest in the Lockheed case, was known as the "Dark Shogun" and exercised hidden power. He is said to have played a dark role in the election of many prime ministers.

Samuel also played an active role in the accession of Saul and David. However, what kind of a prophet was Samuel? What kind of a leader was he and how did he lead Israel during the tumultuous process of uniting them as a kingdom? Today's scripture reading is the climax in Samuel's life. It is the episode of David's anointing, the anointing of a shepherd boy as king.

I Samuel 16:1-13

16:1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for 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 And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you." 4 Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" 5 And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. 6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." 8 Then 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 And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." 11 Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." 12 And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

Let's look at the prophet Samuel from three perspectives. First, Samuel is focused on listening and obeying the will of God. Let us not rely on our own wisdom or experience, but on the Lord's plan, heart, and words. Secondly, Samuel depends on the Lord's promise even though he had many setbacks and regrets. It is by listening to God that we can overcome the anxiety and fear that comes from frustration and regret. And thirdly,

Samuel found hope in David, whom God had appointed. Let us find our hope in the cross and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

1. Listen to and obey the will of the Lord

The verses we just read is the episode where David, the greatest king of Israel, was found. The time period is around the 10th century BC. Israel was about to be united as a kingdom. Until then, it had been nothing more than a disparate and unorganized tribal confederation of 12 tribes. However, led by the prophet Samuel, the first king Saul was about to be replaced by the second king David.

When the prophet Samuel arrived in Bethlehem, he invited Jesse and his children to worship with him as the Lord had told him to do. One by one, the sons of Jesse appear before Samuel. As he looks at them, they each seem to have the grace, beauty, and power befitting a king.

16:6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him. 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

The Lord's will was different from Samuel's and is different from ours. So Samuel went through the same process seven times to find God's will and follow it. "The Lord has not chosen this man!" God's primary concern was the heart. Samuel is trying to listen to the will and word of God. The most beautiful quality of the prophet Samuel is that he listens to God's word and tries to obey His will.

Samuel was offered to God when he was still a child. He was brought to the temple and placed under the care of a priest named Eli, who was training him to be a priest. The Lord spoke to Samuel. It was the middle of the night, and he ran to Eli, thinking that Eli the priest had called him. "Here I am, for you called me." When the same thing was repeated three times, Eli realized that the Lord was speaking to Samuel. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.'" (3:9)

This beautiful episode was the event that set the tone for the life of the prophet Samuel. No matter what happens, and no matter how good our eyes, wisdom, and experience may be (Samuel is already old), it is far more important and necessary to listen to God's word and will.

God's standard is clear: He declares, "I do not see as man sees.... Man looks at the outward appearance, but [the Lord] looks at the heart." Our thoughts and the attitude of our heart are important. The question is whether we have a heart that loves the Lord, that is sincere, that has integrity, that is humble, that loves and serves our neighbor.

It is clear that to rule Israel as king requires dignity, political power, knowledge and experience in warfare, and leadership. These things should not be taken lightly. However, there are things that should take precedence over them. The inner attitude of the heart, the desire for God, is important.

In "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" (p. 45), Stephen Covey describes the importance of the inside in business. The Seven Habits are ... a principle-centered, inside-out approach to character-based personal growth or the cultivation of meaningful relationships. Inside-out means that you start by changing your own inside-your own

fundamental paradigm, personality, motivations, etc.

When Samuel anointed David as the new king, "the spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. (verse 13). As we read that the Spirit of God was poured out heavily, God gave Himself to him. David and God are bound together by a strong relationship of trust.

God's Word and will may cause conflicts in your heart and life. You may be disturbed and upset. You may be disappointed that it is not what you expected. In doing so, you will learn that your heart's desire is different from God's will. You will have to humble yourself to think about how the Lord is leading you.

2. A prophet of frustration and regret

By the way, this episode of Samuel's discovery of King David began as follows. "The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.'" (16:1)

In fact, it was only a few years earlier that Samuel had anointed Saul and appointed him as the first king (1 Samuel 13:1). In a short period of time, Saul disobeyed God and was deposed from the throne of Israel. As a direct result, Saul should have offered everything to God in the battle against the Amalekites, but he did not because he wanted to keep the good things for himself.

"But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen and of the fattened calves and the lambs, all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them. The word of the Lord came to Samuel: 'I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments.' And Samuel was angry, and cried to the Lord all night." (15:9-11)

It is clear how important the first king of Israel was. However, the prophet's hopes and expectations were betrayed and the Lord also deposed Saul. Now he was looking for a king with sadness in his heart. I think I'll call Samuel "the prophet of frustration and regret".

"And Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel." (15:35)

Some of you may be uncomfortable with the Bible saying that God regretted what he did. Then God should not have made Saul king in the first place. However, the best way to describe the situation in terms we can understand is to say that "the Lord also...repented. This is because God's eternal plans and decisions are being realized in the unstable circumstances of this world in the midst of shifting time.

When kingship was introduced to Israel in the first place, there was some trouble. When the people asked for a king, Samuel was opposed to having one. God is the king of Israel. God, the King of the world, rules over everything. But people tend to forget God and rely more on human wisdom, military power, and economic power. They may lose their faith and love for the Lord, thinking that if they have a king, they no longer need God.

"But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, 'Give us a king to judge us.' And Samuel prayed to the Lord. And the Lord said to Samuel, 'Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me

from being king over them." (8:6,7)

The Lord God allowed the introduction of kingship. Isn't this an amazing act of God's mercy? The authority and leadership of Samuel, a priest and prophet, was withdrawn because of the unbelief and sin of the people. Samuel must have been heartbroken and distressed. Even though he was angry, sad, and regretful, he obeyed the Lord.

How do we face it and move on when we too are frustrated and regretful? When Saul arrived as the first king of Israel, Samuel encouraged the people to do as follows. "Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart." (12:20) "For the Lord will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself." (12:22) "Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you." (12:24)

In times of frustration and tears of regret, it is easy for our hearts to wander. Let's focus on the gracious Lord God. God has a plan. Just as He prepared David after Saul, He has prepared a future for you in your walk. Serve Him faithfully with all your heart, for He will never forsake you.

3. God's Plan of Hope

When Samuel found David and anointed him, he was only a shepherd boy. When all seven of Jesse's sons were brought to him, Samuel must have been disappointed because God had not chosen them. However, the eighth and youngest son was a shepherd in the field.

"And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah." (16:12,13)

What no one expected to happen happened! Instead of the seven older, more experienced, wiser, fitter, and more beautiful brothers, the youngest brother was the candidate for king. Jesse, the father, said, "There is still a youngest son left. He is now guarding the sheep. (verse 11), he must have replied with a resigned voice.

What would Samuel have thought? Did he decide that such a little boy was useless? David was not included in the list of candidates to begin with. At least, it seems that his father excluded him from the beginning. In the Bible, seven is a perfect number, so David was an outsider who was not one of them. He had no accomplishments to claim and no credentials to be a candidate.

Then it happened. The voice of the Lord echoes in Samuel's heart! "Come, anoint him. This is the man. What the Lord saw was his heart. Judging not by his appearance, but by the attitude of his heart, which was hidden from the eyes of men, he declared, "He is the new king! It doesn't matter whether he looks good or not.

"(David) is a man after God's own heart? The fact that God saw him that way gives us all hope. There is very little in David's life that indicates that he was a spotless saint. Those of us with all A's will be disappointed when we read David's story. Those of us who don't have all A's are relieved. ...We need the story of David." (Max Lucado, "Like David," p.22)

Just like the story of this mysterious selection, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He was born in Bethlehem with absolutely no qualifications or signs of royal succession. He was born in mid-scandal as the son of a carpenter. Just as David was chosen as an unexpected king, so Jesus became the Savior in an unexpected way.

The (outward) appearance of Jesus on the cross for us would be described in one word: miserable. This Jesus is the King who brings salvation. We need the story of the gospel of Jesus. Just as Samuel pointed to David and said, "This is the King," we need to point to Jesus and say, "This is our Savior, our King, full of love and righteousness.

However, Samuel never got to see the splendid sunny day when David ascended to the throne and ruled Israel. In verse 1 of chapter 25, Samuel's death is described in a simple way. "Now Samuel died. And all Israel assembled and mourned for him, and they buried him in his house at Ramah."

However, at the end of chapter 24, we read that Saul, who had always hated David and wanted to kill him, declared that David should be the next king. Saul went into a cave to do his business. David was hiding in the same cave. David had the perfect opportunity to kill Saul. However, David said, "I would never lay a hand on the Lord's anointed one," and secretly cut off Saul's coat. When Saul found out about it, he cried aloud and said, "I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand." (24:20)

Just as Samuel did not see the majesty of King David and his power to rule his kingdom, we have yet to see Jesus, the risen King who died on the cross, completely ruling the whole world as the Kingdom of God. But let us all listen to the words of Jesus, the King. Let us obey and serve Him so that we can take the next step in times of frustration and regret. Jesus is our King through the cross and resurrection, so let us not give up hope, but rely on Him.