



## LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

### “We Are A Family Of Disciples”

Ps. James Lowe - August 16, 2015

#### WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- What were your duties and chores in your family when you were growing up?
- What are your duties and chores in your household today? Which one do you most enjoy?
- What do you enjoy most about your current occupation (work, school, or household)?

#### WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at <http://www.bethelworld.org>

*Ephesians 2:19-22 ESV “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”*

To be a good citizen of God's kingdom, we must grow in character. To do this, however, we all need to receive help from others and also give help to others.

Today we will look at the story of David's early rise to prominence as a servant of God. We will see that David faithfully applied the anointing (empowerment) which God gave him, and that this led to his eventual appointment to greater roles in God's purposes.

*1 Samuel 16:6-13 ESV “When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is before him.” 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.” Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen these.” 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.” 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.”*

1. **Anointing.** God chooses people for his redemptive purposes based on a person's heart, not their outward appearance or social rank. God anoints (empowers) for a purpose, but the purpose is not immediately fulfilled. The anointing (God's empowerment) is not the same as the appointing. It is necessary, but not sufficient. God must work on us to form us and prepare us for the long term purpose.

1 Samuel 16:14-23 ESV *“Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him. And Saul’s servants said to him, “Behold now, a harmful spirit from God is tormenting you. Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well.” So Saul said to his servants, “Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me.” One of the young men answered, “Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the Lord is with him.” Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, “Send me David your son, who is with the sheep.” And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread and a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them by David his son to Saul. And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, “Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight.” And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.”*

2. **Application.** God provides us the opportunities to grow in character, skill, and experience by serving others through the anointing (empowerment) he has already given us. We must cooperate with him. David began to apply God's anointing before Saul called him. Like David, we need to start by serving in our own households. That will prepare us for the opportunity to serve in responsibilities outside our homes.

1 Samuel 17:1-18:5 (The story of David and Goliath) After a season of serving King Saul as a minstrel, David came into prominence due to a major crisis. Goliath, a massive warrior from Israel's enemy, defied Israel's soldiers during a time of vulnerability and uncertainty. David had faithfully applied God's anointing to slay various animal predators that sought to attack the family's flock of sheep. Because of this David had confidence that he could also fight Goliath, even though all of Israel's trained soldiers were fearful. David did indeed fight Goliath, and slew him. This set him on the path that eventually led to his becoming king of all Israel.

3. **Appointment.** God providentially works through circumstances and people to appoint us to positions and responsibilities he wants us to fill in order to advance his purposes in the earth. If we will serve faithfully in lesser responsibilities, God will open the door to serve in greater ways. Saul eventually appointed David over all of Israel's warriors. God will also appoint us to roles that make a difference in the kingdom of God.

### **PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.**

- What does it mean to be called by God to serve him? Do you believe you are called by God?
- How can you faithfully apply God's anointing (empowerment) in your current circumstances? Is there anything you believe God would want you to do differently or in addition to what you are currently doing to apply God's anointing?
- What do you believe God might appoint you to do in the future? What role and responsibilities do you think are in God's plans for your future? Do you believe you are faithfully preparing yourself for God's future appointment?

### **PRAYER (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Pray that God will give each Christian disciple in our church a clear sense of divine calling.
- Pray that God will both anoint (empower) us and help us discover ways to faithfully apply his anointing to serve others in our homes, our churches, our workplaces or schools, and our communities.
- Pray that God will prepare us for his future appointments, and give us discernment to have a clear sense of what lies ahead in terms of his plan for our lives. Pray that God will fashion the heart in us that we need to have in order to fulfill his purposes for our lives.