

## **1 Samuel 16:1-13 The Message (MSG)**

### **God Looks into the Heart**

**16** GOD addressed Samuel: "So, how long are you going to mope over Saul? You know I've rejected him as king over Israel. Fill your flask with anointing oil and get going. I'm sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I've spotted the very king I want among his sons."

<sup>2-3</sup> "I can't do that," said Samuel. "Saul will hear about it and kill me."

GOD said, "Take a heifer with you and announce, 'I've come to lead you in worship of GOD, with this heifer as a sacrifice.' Make sure Jesse gets invited. I'll let you know what to do next. I'll point out the one you are to anoint."

<sup>4</sup> Samuel did what GOD told him. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the town fathers greeted him, but apprehensively. "Is there something wrong?"

<sup>5</sup> "Nothing's wrong. I've come to sacrifice this heifer and lead you in the worship of GOD. Prepare yourselves, be consecrated, and join me in worship." He made sure Jesse and his sons were also consecrated and called to worship.

<sup>6</sup> When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "Here he is! GOD's anointed!"

<sup>7</sup> But GOD told Samuel, “Looks aren’t everything. Don’t be impressed with his looks and stature. I’ve already eliminated him. GOD judges persons differently than humans do. Men and women look at the face; GOD looks into the heart.”

<sup>8</sup> Jesse then called up Abinadab and presented him to Samuel. Samuel said, “This man isn’t GOD’s choice either.”

<sup>9</sup> Next Jesse presented Shammah. Samuel said, “No, this man isn’t either.”

<sup>10</sup> Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel. Samuel was blunt with Jesse, “GOD hasn’t chosen any of these.”

<sup>11</sup> Then he asked Jesse, “Is this it? Are there no more sons?”

“Well, yes, there’s the runt. But he’s out tending the sheep.”

Samuel ordered Jesse, “Go get him. We’re not moving from this spot until he’s here.”

<sup>12</sup> Jesse sent for him. He was brought in, the very picture of health—bright-eyed, good-looking.

GOD said, “Up on your feet! Anoint him! This is the one.”

<sup>13</sup> Samuel took his flask of oil and anointed him, with his brothers standing around watching. The Spirit of GOD entered David like a rush of wind, God vitally empowering him for the rest of his life.

Samuel left and went home to Ramah.

