

## On Assignment: No Time To Waste

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**Text: 1 Samuel 1 Sa 15:34 –16:1; 4-13 (NIV)**

<sup>34</sup> Then Samuel left for Ramah, but Saul went up to his home in Gibeah of Saul. <sup>35</sup> Until the day Samuel died, he did not go to see Saul again, though Samuel mourned for him. And the Lord regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel.

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<sup>1</sup> The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

<sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”

<sup>5</sup> Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord.”

<sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.”

<sup>9</sup> Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the Lord chosen this one.”

<sup>10</sup> Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The Lord has not chosen these.”

<sup>11</sup> So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

<sup>12</sup> So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”

<sup>13</sup> So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

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## **Historical Background:**

In the book of 1 Samuel, we discover a powerful story of obedience and following divine direction in the life of the Prophet Samuel. As we dive into the passage, we uncover valuable insights that speak to our own lives today. The account of Samuel's assignment from God to anoint a new king is not only a reminder of the importance of being attentive to God's voice, but also serves as a powerful illustration of how our assignments from God require our immediate response.

## **Facts About Samuel:**

Samuel held three roles because he was called by God to fulfill various important duties for the Israelites at that time. As a prophet, he received messages and guidance from God to pass on to the people. As a priest, he offered sacrifices and interceded on behalf of the people before God. And as a judge, he made decisions and provided leadership to the nation of Israel. These roles were necessary for maintaining spiritual, moral, and political order among the Israelites during Samuel's lifetime.\_

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## **What can we learn from Samuel's Experience?**

1. God is the author and finisher of your assignment(s).
2. Don't let your assignment become your identity.
3. Accept when it's time to move on to your next assignment.
4. There is fresh oil for your next assignment. Don't waste the oil on the past.
5. Your assignment is not just about you.
6. Go when and where God tells you to go. Be prepared to do what he tells you to do.
7. Ask God to give you ears to hear and eyes to see your assignment clearly.