



## sermon highlights

### STICKS AND STONES WEEK ONE: ANOINTING

Sticks & Stones series, which presents five “secret weapons” to make our Resolutions more than words. This week’s secret weapon was “Anointing.”

#### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

1 Samuel 16:1-13, 19 ! ! Mark 12:41-43! ! 1 Samuel 17:37!

#### I AM ANOINTED TO ACCOMPLISH MY ASSIGNMENT

-Pastor Ruben opened his sermon by preaching from 1 Samuel 16, where the Lord instructs the prophet Samuel to go to Jesse of Bethlehem and to anoint the one the Lord identifies (who would later be David, the young boy who would slay Goliath and become the King of Israel).

-Though we are not called to be a king, we are anointed by God to achieve important works. Pastor Ruben went on to explain, “To be anointed means to be singled out by God for special favor and responsibility.”

-While the Lord would anoint David through the prophet Samuel, in John 14, Jesus promises us that the Holy Spirit would anoint each and every one of us.

-As Pastor Ruben preached, “In order to correctly function, you must first be filled.” If we are filled with Christ (Christ literally means the anointed one), the anointing is not just on us, but alive within us.

-Pastor Ruben preached that an anointing is meant to enable, equip, and empower us every day.

-When Samuel met with Jesse of Bethlehem (v. 4-13), he could have chosen any of his sons. In fact, most of his sons seemed to be fit to receive God’s anointing, but as Samuel said, “People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

#### JUST BECAUSE I'M NOT VISIBLE DOESN'T MEAN I'M NOT VALUABLE

-Pastor Ruben opened his second affirmation by saying, “David was left out by everyone else, but he was set apart by God.” In 1 Samuel 16, the Lord instructed Samuel to anoint David, who wasn’t even with his brothers.

-Perhaps, as Pastor Ruben preached, the people who feel left out are the ones God wants to set apart to accomplish his purposes. Pastor Ruben went on to say, “Invisibility, contrary to popular opinion, was not a sign of insignificance. When God knows where you are, no one else has to know where you are... When you aren’t visible, God is saving you and protecting me for something special.”

-It’s the things that no one sees that produce the results that everyone wants.” Just because your assignment is not visible, it does not mean your anointing is not valuable.

#### I DON'T NEED A GREATER ASSIGNMENT TO EXPERIENCE A GREATER ANOINTING

-After Samuel anoints David in verse 13, the next time we see David is not on a grand stage. Logically speaking, a unique anointing should immediately warrant a greater assignment.

-However, in verse 19, the next time we see David, he is tending sheep--the same assignment that had him left out of the initial conversation.

-As Pastor Ruben preached, "God does not promise a new activity with every fresh anointing."

-Instead of confusing the fresh anointing God wishes to give with the activity we wish to receive, God may want to grow us like He did David, where he gave him things in the field that made him fight for the fight.

-Perhaps the first word God wants to speak to us this year is not to do something new, but to do exactly what we've been doing with a greater anointing and awareness of God's Spirit at work within us. Pastor Ruben said, "When you keep doing what you do, you will become the person that God always knew you were."

### **I HAVE NOTHING TO PROVE AND ONLY ONE TO PLEASE**

-Even if we do not have a clearer purpose to start our year, God's anointing frees us up to see that we have nothing to prove to anyone else. We only have one to please--God Himself.

-Pastor Ruben preached, "Life gets hard when we start trying to try out for a God who already said He was pleased with us through Jesus."

-It is a new beginning any time you decide to receive it. You are going to have the same battles and the same responsibilities, but you are coming at it with a new perspective and passion. You have nothing to prove, and only One to please, so we can fix our eyes on Him and rejoice in the new anointing God gives us every day.