

1 Samuel 16:1-13**Jesus Is Our Anointed Savior**

- 1) He came chosen by the Father
- 2) He came anointed by the Spirit

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St. John Lutheran Church - Frankenmuth, Michigan

1The 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.” 2But Samuel said, “How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me.” The LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ 3Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.” 4Samuel; 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?” 5Samuel 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. 6When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.” 7But 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 man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” 8Then Jesses

called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.” 9 Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the LORD chosen this one.” 10 Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The LORD has not chosen these. 11 So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered, “but he is tending the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.” 12 So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; he is the one.” 13 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 upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.

Introduction: Our daughter told us that when our grandson finished his last sport’s team season, there were no winners and losers. Nowadays all the youngsters get playing time and everyone receives a “participation” trophy instead of a championship trophy.

Those of you who are around my age or older may remember how teams were chosen even for recess intramurals in our day. The teacher chose two team captains. Each captain took turns choosing teammates from the rest, whittling down the field until the few and perhaps final one that no side wanted. What life lesson did our generation learn? One doesn’t always get to play or win for that matter. But if you do, always strive to do the best and improve. Win humbly and lose gracefully.

Those who don't learn this lesson will struggle to cope with life's challenges.

When the LORD instructed Samuel to anoint a new king over Israel, human choice differed drastically from the LORD's choice. In fact, even the prophet Samuel allowed human bias to cloud his judgment.

Now we are not here this morning to focus on how to make the highest moral choice based on this interesting Bible account. Rather, we are here to hear **how** the LORD does and **why**. We are here to find assurance from how the LORD controlled history, that is, **HIS**tory, in this episode in the lives of His people to point to something greater. Through the LORD's choosing and anointing of a new king, King David, we witness again our LORD's pathway to keeping His promise to send Jesus, "**Great David's Greater Son**," through which the LORD previews:

Jesus Is Our Anointed Savior

1) He came chosen by the Father.

A. The Israelites chose Saul to be king over Israel.

1. How did Israel choose King Saul? Instead of gladly living under a theocracy (nation directly "**ruled**" by God with the LORD's prophet serving as His "**kingly**" representative), the people wanted an earthly king like "**all the other nations**" (1 Samuel 8:5). This request displeased Samuel and the LORD told him, "**It is not you they have rejected as their king, but me**" (1 Samuel 8:7).
2. Enter Saul; he fit the human profile of a champion, a king: a "**head taller**" than most (1 Samuel 9:2; 1 Samuel 10:23). But Saul in sinfulness eventually

disobeyed the LORD and the LORD rejected Saul. *“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’”* (v.1). In fact, we hear evidence of the depth to which Saul fell from the LORD’s ways and will: *“But Samuel said, ‘How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me’”* (v.2). Instead of allow sinful humans to make the choice, now...

B. The LORD chose David to be king over Israel.

1. *“Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.”* 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?’* (They heard how the Samuel did the LORD’s work because Saul disobeyed and put to death wicked King Agag [1 Kings 15]). *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. When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.’ 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 man looks at.*

Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart”” (vv.3-7).

2. David was a man “*after the LORD’s own heart*” (1 Samuel 2:35; 13:14; 17:28)—had a “heart” that recognized his sin and unworthiness, but one that trusted his LORD, the God of “free and faithful grace,” to someday send a Savior from sin—through David’s descendants—David isn’t the Good Shepherd, but He beautifully wrote about the Good Shepherd in Psalm 23.

Appropriation: Dear chosen by the LORD:

- **The “Affluenza” Teen:** his attorney’s defense rested on how his parents spoiled him from little on, giving him everything he wanted, always making him feel that he’s a “winner” to the point that he didn’t know right from wrong. Interesting explanation, but not an acceptable excuse. What does God expect from us as parents, leaders, whatever role we serve in life? God expects perfection: “*Be holy as I the LORD your God am holy*” (Leviticus 19:2). “*You must have no sins. The soul who sins will die*” (Ezekiel 33:19). God knows and sees the reality of our worst....
- **The “Afflicted” Sinner:** But David’s name means “beloved” and we witness how the LORD chose David—an act of pure grace. This Bible story isn’t merely about who Saul was, Samuel is and David would be—they were all sinners who needed a Savior. Rather, the LORD, the God of “free and faithful grace,” raised up David—a biblical Cinderella character—and created a Davidic covenant, one that demonstrated how our LORD orchestrated **HIS**tory to

prepare the way for David's descendant, our Christ: the only ONE who as a youth perfectly obeyed His earthly parents and heavenly Father; the only ONE who **sacrifice his innocence on the cross** to pay our sin-death payment; the only ONE who assures us through His **victory resurrection** He conquered our sin and defeated our death.

Transition: Dearly beloved, the LORD doesn't want our excuses; He wants our sins! The LORD saves those who couldn't and can't save themselves. That's why the Father sent Jesus. Jesus is our anointed Savior...

2) He came anointed by the Holy Spirit.

A. Jesus was the LORD's champion not man's choice.

1. Isaiah describes our Jesus: "*He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him*" (Isaiah 53:2). In fact, Isaiah further describes, "*He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not*" (Isaiah 53:3). There was "**nothing**"—humanly speaking—outwardly attractive about Jesus.

2. The Gospel lesson shows us the Father's approval and the Spirit's anointing of Jesus into His public ministry to carry out His saving mission.

B. How did Jesus serve as our Champion?

1. Jesus humbled Himself to fulfill the law: "*Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have*

not come to abolish them but to fulfill them” (Matthew 5:17-18).

2. Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin: *“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!” (Philippians 2:6-8)*

Appropriation: Dear brothers and sister in Jesus...

- **1:292 million odds:** People want help and hope, as evidence by all those trying to win the highest payout in Powerball history. Although someone will eventually win, all the rest will be losers in life’s lottery. But Isaiah comforts us: *“Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows...stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed” (Isaiah 53:4-5).*

Conclusion: When it comes to the LORD choosing, in Jesus He has chosen us by His grace alone, bringing us to faith by the Spirit’s anointing in baptism (Epistle lesson), and as we cling to His word and sacraments, we will NEVER EVER lose. We remain number one for eternity. That’s why Jesus is our anointed Savior. Amen.