



Sermon, Sunday June 23, 2024 "Peace of Soul"

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 ¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And 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 you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But 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 does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Introduction: Samuel Anoints David

Today is the fifth Sunday after Pentecost. Today's text is the story of David being chosen as the future king of Israel by the prophet Samuel. The Old Testament deals a lot with David. David became king and reigned seven years in Hebron and thirty-three years in Jerusalem.

Prophet Samuel follows the word of the Lord and goes to Bethlehem, where David's father Jesse lives. This is to fulfill the Lord's plan to establish a new king in place of Saul, the first king of Israel. However, if this was discovered by Saul, Samuel's life could be at risk. So, Samuel makes the excuse that he came to Bethlehem to perform a sacrifice. Samuel invites Jesse's family to this sacrifice.

Samuel interviewed Jesse's sons in order, starting with the eldest son. When Samuel saw his eldest son Eliab, he thought he was a young man capable of becoming king. However, the Lord's thoughts were different from Samuel's. Verse 7 of today's text says: **'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.'**



Afterwards, Samuel interviewed the seven sons of Jesse, but none of them were chosen by Samuel. Samuel asks Jesse if he has any more sons to interview. Then Jesse replies that only the youngest is left to tend the sheep in the field.

In fact, Jesse felt that his youngest son was not old enough to be interviewed and that he had many shortcomings. However, David, who was called by Samuel, was anointed by Samuel according to the Lord's command. The Bible says that from then on David was greatly moved by the Spirit of the Lord. This is the story of today's text. Then, why did the Lord choose David as king among Jesse's many sons?

Body: The man who looks at the outward appearance and the Lord who looks at the center

According to today's text, the standard when Samuel put aside all seven sons, including the eldest son of Jesse, and chose David, the youngest, was not a person's 'appearance,' but a person's 'center.' This means that David's center is distinct from that of his other brothers. In fact, Samuel learned in the process of making Saul the first king of Israel that appearances do not matter when judging a person.

The story of Samuel anointing Saul as king is described in detail in 1 Samuel chapter 9. 1 Samuel 9:2 describes Saul as follows: **'He (Kish) had a son named Saul, an impressive young man without equal among the Israelites--a head taller than any of the others.'**

As we can see from this verse, after careful consideration, Samuel appointed Saul, a handsome man, as the first king of Israel, but his attempt ultimately ended in failure. Because Saul was not a king worthy of the Lord's will. So, what is 'a person's appearance' and what is the 'center' that verse 7 of today's text refers to?

The **'outward appearance'** is the same as the **'outer nature'** mentioned by Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:16. Appearance in today's text does not simply refer to a person's face or body, it means all the conditions surrounding a person. In general, many people use these conditions to judge others.

In fact, we live in the 21st century and the influence of money is so great that it is no exaggeration to say that money rules the world. In today's era of capitalism, money is the core value of **'appearance'** that today's text talks about. However, money itself has a neutral value, but the moment money combines with humans' desire for power and selfishness, it becomes a means of controlling others. As a result, equal relationships between people are broken. Simply put, people with a lot of money ignore or look down on poor people. So, a world dominated by conditions (**appearance**) loses justice and becomes an unfair place.

What is the 'center' mentioned in today's text? We can find this answer in verse 13 of the text. Verse 13 says: **'Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.'**

What does **'the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David'** mean in this verse? This does not mean that David's life was an example to others, it means that David enjoyed a very intimate relationship with the Lord. So why is it important to enjoy an intimate relationship with the Lord and be with Him in our lives?

People who are created in the image of the Lord cannot be truly happy only with the conditions of worldly happiness. Let me give you an example to help you understand this. Imagine a man and a woman who are about to get married. The reason I talk about men and women who are about to get married is because the happiest relationship in human life is a romantic relationship. A man and a woman in love think their relationship will last forever. They believe that their love will never change. However, this thinking stems from a misunderstanding of human nature. Originally, humans did not have the ability to agape love, which only the Lord can do. This is not to say that humans cannot love and care for one another. This means that the love that humans can achieve in the world is essentially different from the love that the Lord achieves in the world.

Nevertheless, people experience failure when they try to demand from others the agape love that only the Lord can provide, or to give such love to others. So the Bible tells us to focus on the love of the Lord. The Bible



says that only the Lord can love us (humans) completely, and that only He can provide true comfort to our souls. Through the Lord's love, we are given the gift of the ability to love others. Without the full power of love given by the Lord, humans cannot achieve perfect love through their own abilities and will. So, what is David's 'center' mentioned in today's text?

David's 'center' is **'true trust'** in the Lord. The Lord saw in David's mind and heart true trust in Him. We can know David's center through the praises of the psalms he composed. Psalm 23 begins with **'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.'**, and ends with **'Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.'** Such praise and confession cannot be made without true trust in the Lord. A person who can praise and confess like this is filled with the Spirit of the Lord.

However, David's confession that there is nothing lacking in his life is not objectively correct. We know that there is a lot of pain and difficulty in the lives of vulnerable humans. Also, David's life in today's text was no exception.

Many people do not understand David's confession and praise that **'I shall not want.'** So, no matter how much they own, they think they lack many things. Therefore, many people expect a lot from their wives, husbands, children, friends, and neighbors. They live their lives hoping to be recognized by them, and when their needs are not met, they blame all their problems on others. To those who remain in this kind of life, David's confession that **'I shall not want.'** sounds empty.

Conclusion: Peace of Soul

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ! Now let's summarize today's message. Are we who worship today moved by the Spirit of the Lord? Are we people who are centered enough to receive the Lord's approval?

I will tell you some evidence of the life that appears to a person who is centered. This is as clear as a sign to lovers in love. People who love each other want to know each other deeply, want to talk, and want to be together. Likewise, people who are moved by the Spirit of the Lord also want to pray to the Lord and read the Bible because they want to know the Lord deeply. Furthermore, they are happy to worship the Lord.

However, we must always be careful not to let our devotional life become a formal religious life. A person filled with the Holy Spirit wants to have an intimate relationship with the Lord. This mindset is essentially different from religious formalism.

Additionally, not only external signs but also internal signs appear to those who are centered before the Lord. It is the peace of our soul that comes from being intimately connected to the Lord.

In fact, many modern people live their lives thinking that they can do whatever they want. Modern people have many things, but their lives are neither free nor peaceful. However, we live without realizing that this is a problem.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ! In today's text, the person who was completely captured by the Spirit of the Lord was David. However, there is more one with the Lord than David. Jesus is one who is united enough to call God **'Abba Father.'**

Jesus is the beginning and foundation of our faith, and the only way for our souls to enjoy complete peace. No matter what situation we face, please hold on to Jesus, who is the only way for our souls to enjoy complete peace.

