
RELATED SCRIPTURES

1 Samuel 13:1–15 | Zephaniah 3:17 | Psalm 32:3–5

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 7.14.24**SUMMARY**

Samuel anointed David as Israel's next king (1 Samuel 16:1–13); however, he didn't immediately begin his kingly duties. Instead, he resumed his role as a keeper of the sheep. Though the Spirit of the Lord came upon him to serve as the king of God's people, he would still be several years away from assuming these duties; there was still an existing king, Saul, whose troubles had just begun. Saul directly disobeyed the word of the Lord by initiating a burnt offering—a duty strictly reserved for the priest (1 Samuel 13:1–15). While this action may seem "minor," it reveals Saul's lack of trust in God's word—a grave matter for the king of the Lord's people. As a result of Saul's sin, he received judgment from the Lord, whose Spirit departed from him. The Spirit's departure does not immediately reflect Saul's salvific condition (he may or may not have been saved; only the Lord knows); it is a matter of the Lord no longer using Saul for the Lord's purposes in redemptive history. In this state of judgment, harmful spirits tormented Saul, so he and his servants summoned David, a skillful musician, to play the lyre for him to suppress them. When David played for Saul, "the harmful spirit departed from him" (1 Samuel 16:23). Undoubtedly, David's music was beautiful, but it was only the indirect cause of bringing relief to Saul; ultimately, the Lord's hand was on David, and through him, the Lord would bring relief to *all* of Israel. More importantly, David foreshadows the work of Jesus Christ, the Lord's Anointed, who doesn't merely soothe us in our misery but delivers us from our sin, speaking over us his words of life (John 6:63).

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of 1 Samuel 16:14–23.

The Lord controls all our circumstances. Though David was anointed king, he didn't get to be king immediately. What are some things that David might have learned through this experience of observing King Saul?

What can we observe from this account about how the Lord uses his people, notably that the Lord used David to calm Saul's harmful spirits? In what ways can you, as a Christian, have influence in non-Christian spaces?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.