

FIRST SAMUEL

Lesson 25: Chapter 16, Overcoming Fear / Making Right Choices

23 December 2016

SAMUEL'S FEAR

Vss. 1-4 Samuel feared to obey God's command, but he was able to overcome that fear and follow through. We often find ourselves in situations where we fear to do what we know God has called us to do. It makes us very uncomfortable and even fearful at times. Thankfully, God has shown us that even a great servant like Samuel has faced the same feelings and experienced the same reservations that we do today. How was he able to overcome his fears and yield to God and accomplish the things that God commanded?

ELIJAH *"Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are"* (James 5:7). Elijah experienced fear and depression after a great victory (1 Kings 19:3-4). He was able to deny himself (Luke 9:23) and obey the Lord. If he could do it so can you—if you'll let God have control of your life.

PAUL *"His bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible"* (2 Cor. 10:10). Yet, when he yielded his life to the Lord, he was able to accomplish great things.

MOSES *"I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue"* (Exod. 4:10). He thought God ought to select a better candidate for the job. God could work wonders through Moses because Moses got out of the way and let God take control.

YOU/ME (See 1 John 4:15-18). The born again child of God has the knowledge that God is love and that God loves him/her. Now we must put that knowledge and that belief into action and live accordingly. Apply God's promises (Rom. 8:28, Heb. 13:5, Psa. 23:4, Psa. 37:39-40, Prov. 30:5, Isa. 41:10, Rom. 8:37-39, etc.). When you truly realize that you're in the safe hands of God, you'll be able to deny your fears (*perfect love casteth out fear*) and trust that God will see you through whatever lies ahead. You must take your belief beyond mere knowledge of Bible facts. You must now live IN that belief to enable you to serve God properly and obey Him.

JESUS (Hebrews 5:5-10). Jesus *"was heard in that he feared"* (vs. 7). God became man (1 Tim. 3:16) to experience all the things that men must face in this world, including fear. You can go to the Lord for comfort whenever you fear because he knows exactly what you're experiencing. He can help you and strengthen you in every situation because He has personally experienced it. Jesus said, *"Not my will, but thine, be done"* (Luke 22:42). This is our example. (See James 4:15).

HOW TO MAKE CHOICES AND REMAIN IN GOD'S WILL

Vss. 6-8 Sight is not a safe guide. Samuel "**looked on Eliab, and said, surely the Lord's anointed is before him.**" The Lord "**refused him.**" Samuel saw the "**outward appearance,**" but God saw the man's heart.

Look at the appearance of a thing, but don't stop there. Now you've got to intently harken to the word of God to finalize your decision. Notice that David's physical appearance was just as fine as Eliab's (vs. 12), but that's not why God chose him as king.

We must learn how to make the right choice when there are two choices that seem equally good from all that we can observe with our natural senses.

1 Chron. 28:9 You've got to search your heart by God's word. That's how God will reveal to you the REASON you think one way or another. He'll show you why you're considering making the decision the way you are. He exposes your motives in His word. He understands "**all the imaginations of the thoughts.**" If you want to search your heart, you need to look in God's word (Heb. 4:12), which can discern the intents of YOUR heart and reveal HIS true will (Psa. 143:10).

Psalms 7:9 As a man guides a horse by the reins, God guides our way by His word. As He shows you why you make certain choices and reveals your motives, it opens your spiritual eyes to make the correct choice. See also Jeremiah 11:20 and 17:10. God gives us choices that put us on trial so we can see what compels our actions.

1 Cor. 3:12-15 At the Judgment Seat of Christ, the Lord is not going to be concerned with how MUCH work you did for Him or how LONG you served Him. Notice He's looking at "**what SORT it is**" (vs. 13). Why did you DO the work? What was the motivating factor? Are you doing it for the reward? It will burn! Did you do it because you love God and want to honor Him? That will abide.

Don't be in a hurry to make decisions. Take the time to make sure your decision is in tune with the leading of God's Holy Spirit, directed by the word of God.