

“A MOST DIFFICULT TASK”

Delivered to DANVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Lord's Day Morning Jan 22nd 2017

Elder Jeff E. King TH.M.

Alternative Title: “Gaining Power”

1 Samuel 16:1-7

1. And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

2 And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear *it*, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD.

3 And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me *him* whom I name unto thee.

4 And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably?

5 And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

6 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed *is* before him.

7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Character: The mental and moral qualities that makes a person distinct.

God's instruction to Samuel; “Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because **I have refused him** (speaking of King Saul) for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for **man looketh on the outward** appearance, **but the Lord looketh on the heart.**”

Superficial judgement is forbidden in both Testaments.

God is looking for character:

To decipher one's character, there will have to be an investigation into the virtues or lack of.

2 Peter 1:5

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge...

Being “**diligent**” isn't easy. But it is expected.

Not the original word in Greek for “**add**” is in a number of places translated “**minister**”.

It is Faith that supplies virtue... and can come from no other place.

These graces do not function mechanically... but rise from nurturing.

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After our entrance into the Kingdom of God, our diligence is to begin...

Of Virtue: “not the common use of the term, but a strenuous tone of the mind and vigor.”

Only possible because of Faith: virtue makes us circumspect, discreet. **Bengel**

Note:

We believe that all of us must graduate from one virtue to the next (**according to the Sermon on the Beatitudes #0007**).

Knowledge is power, increasing our knowledge does, in fact, increase our power. Add to that virtue, and the potential is endless.

Opposite of sluggish... you know when you feel physically sluggish, must not be said of your spiritual life.

Proverbs 10:9

He that walketh uprightly walketh surely:
but he that perverteth his way shall be known.

If (by conjecture or assumption) you are about to prostitute your character, remember “**a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches...**”