

# 'The Rise of the Kings Series'

## Sermons in the Book of 1 Samuel

### Message 25 - 'God's School of Preparation and Providence' 1 Samuel 16:8 - 23



As David continued in the work that he had been given to do by his father, little did he know that his life was about to change dramatically. However, God had had His hand on him throughout His life, preparing David for the task that God had for him, and at the appropriate time, He would reveal everything. God had prepared David, would equip David, and then would lead David to the place he wanted him to be. We can see three things:

**Prepared in the Field (v8-12a)** - David was out in the field when the rest of his family attended the feast. David was prepared in the field, and the lessons he learnt there would help him as the Lord called him to be a shepherd of the people. The Lord had granted David experiences in the daily grind of being obedient to his father that had taught him lessons he would apply on a grander scale. Remember, that the lessons we learn in the discipline and duty of the mundane prepare us for the time when God grants us dealings and delight in the momentous. David had been diligent in looking after the sheep, day after day, and I am sure there were times when he grew tired of the dull responsibility, but it was in those times that he learned the lessons of diligence, commitment. When the dangers came, he was alert to protect the flock, was not afraid to stand against the threat, but stood with courage. It would be the same God-given courage, determination, and trust that would see him face the giants of his life. In the quiet moments he would reflect on the greatness, goodness, and faithfulness of God, these would stir his soul. He had been prepared in God's School ready for the task that God had for him.

**Equipped by the Lord (v12a-13)** - Samuel finally meets the man of God's choice, he meets David, of whom we are told elsewhere that he was a man after God's own heart. The Lord chooses David, and equips him for the work before him. Samuel would anoint him for the new task that the Lord was bringing him into. In the imagery of the Scriptures, certainly in the Old Testament, the anointing with oil can symbolise the Holy Spirit and the endowment of His power on His servants. Zechariah 4:6, '*Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,*' Says the LORD of hosts.' For the believer, when they are born again, they receive the fullness of the Spirit according to the New Testament. Acts 2:38, '*Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*' All the gifts for life service as unto the Lord, that appear in a Christian's life flow from the presence of the Holy Spirit, because it is through the life imparted and given by the Spirit of God that the sinner is united to Jesus Christ. God does not set us the challenge of serving Him, of labouring to complete the tasks that He has given, alone, in our own strength. As we have been called out of darkness into light, He also equips us with that which we need for the task he has for us. Just as the Lord is ever at work in us preparing us, moulding us, the Spirit also dwells within us to equip us to walk worthy of our calling, to accomplish the purposes God has for us, even in the midst of the fiercest furnace, we can feel supported and strengthened.

**Led by the Spirit (v14-23)** - It is God's providence that takes the prepared servant and places them in the position where God wants them to be. Through a series of significant providences, David was called to Saul's court. David followed the leading of the Spirit, as he approached life with spiritual perspective, living to glorify God, and to please Him. We see, that in his obedience, David experienced what many faithful servants in the Scriptures knew, the abiding presence of God, 'the Lord was with Him'. David knew his gifts and as he faithfully served the Lord in the right way, he knew the presence of God with him. He loved the Lord, worshiped the Lord, and surrendered himself to do the work that the Lord had called him to do. As long as he followed the Lord, God blessed and used him for his glory. The hand of providence held all these things together, and just as God had prepared David, God placed David where He wanted, and where He could work for Him.



## Penzance Baptist Church

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