

FAITHFUL MEN

1 Samuel 16

WEEK #: 11

Gentlemen,

1 Samuel 16 begins with an interesting question... "How long will you mourn..?"

1. Have you completed the process of mourning over loss in your life? As discussed in our video, there are 5 typical stages of mourning: Denial/Isolation, Bargaining, Anger, Depression & Acceptance. Have you come to accept losses in your life such as: the loss of a dream, health, finances, marriage, sexual vitality, respect, or opportunity? Some men tend to not fully acknowledge loss and the anger that remains can become turned inward. Anger turned inward is often manifested as depression. Think about these stages of loss/mourning—have you accepted that which needs to be accepted? Wherever appropriate, journal your thoughts and reflections concerning loss. How is this affecting you today?
2. Samuel headed toward Bethlehem to anoint the next king of Israel. Bethlehem means “the house of bread”. Both Christ and David came from Bethlehem. Jesus is the Word made flesh. If we “eat” and digest the Word of God we should become more like what we eat, the Bread of Life, Christ Himself. Are you eating to live? Hopefully you are learning how to appropriately take in the Word of God in such a way that you remain hungry for it? If you are forcing yourself to read your Bible something is likely wrong. If you are striving to walk out your life in Christ and your Bible represents a “chore” then something is likely wrong. Walking in Christ and living in the Holy Spirit is to be more effortless than many men realize. What are your observations concerning your walk? Would you like to remain hungry in this area? The sermon entitled “Come to the Table for Breakfast” on March 27th may help you.
3. Samuel filled up his “horn” with oil. Consider really spending some time considering the verses on in the left margin (Proverbs 3:3-4). Are you prospering in life? Is your “horn” getting full? Is your cup running over? We give out of the overflow in our lives, not simply financially but in every area of life. What is keeping you from the abundant, well-rounded life described in John 10:10? Where is your life out of balance?
4. David was anointed (divinely empowered, identified and called) to be king as you as a believer are empowered by the Holy Spirit. Are you adequately informed as to the purpose and power of the Holy Spirit? Do you see the Person of the Spirit equally approachable as Christ Himself? When you read the Bible, do you get the sense that you are in tune with the Spirit of God or are you more tepid on the subject? Please journal your observations concerning the importance or lack of importance of the Holy Spirit in your daily life. As you discuss this subject with other believers what do you gather about your walk that is strong in the Spirit and what is in need of a boost?
5. Make this a great week. Start small—go deep and think big. Encouraging email coming this Wednesday.

Pastor Gary

Let love and
faithfulness
never leave
you;
bind them
around your
neck,
write them
on the tablet of
your heart.
Then you will
win favor and
a good name
in the sight
of God and
man.
Proverbs 3:3-4

I will raise up
for myself a
faithful
priest, who will
do according to
what is in my
heart and mind.
I will firmly
establish his
priestly house,
and they will
minister before
my
anointed one
always.
1 Samuel 2:35