

MORE THAN WORDS – PART 1: SET UP SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022

A practice known as “anointing” was very important throughout Jewish history (though there are two very different contexts for anointing). In early Jewish history, the High Priest was anointed to serve in that role; as the tradition developed, all priests would be anointed to serve in the Temple. In later Jewish history, kings were anointed to serve as the king of Israel. Eventually, “the Lord’s anointed” began to refer to exclusively to kings.

The word “anointed” actually means to be singled out by God for special favor and responsibility. Anointing came to stand for greatness.

What if God has singled us out for special favor and responsibility? What if we don’t have to be kings to be great? What if we had nothing to prove & only one to please?

READ 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

- What are some New Year’s resolutions you have made (in the past or for this year)?
- Have you ever found it difficult to follow through on New Year’s resolutions? Why do you think it’s so challenging?
- Why do you think Samuel’s fear of Saul was at the forefront of possibilities?
- Why do you think things that can go wrong or not work out stay at the forefront of possibilities for us?
- How does God reveal a plan to Samuel in response to his fear?
- Do you believe when God gives us something to do on purpose with purpose that he also has a plan? Why or why not?
- What might be better this year if you simply got doing what God said right?
- Why do you think David was forgotten or dismissed? Has there ever been a time when you’ve felt forgotten, dismissed or insignificant?
- How does this story uncover that even though we may be forgotten we are not insignificant to God?
- Why do you think Jesse’s other sons were not chosen to be king?
- How does David being described by his outward appearance actually reveal that more than outward appearance matters?
- How might you have felt if you were one of David’s brothers when he was anointed to be the next king in front of you when you weren’t chosen?
- What are some ways you have tried to prove yourself to or gain the approval of others?
- How are things different when you realize you have nothing to prove and only one (God) to please?
- What next step will you take to do whatever you do – whether something new or the same as before – with a renewed sense of God’s anointing and a greater awareness of God’s spirit powerfully upon you?

NOTHING TO PROVE & ONLY ONE TO PLEASE