

Kids' Chronicle

The Lord chooses David to be king

BY JOE SARNICOLA

The Lord spoke to Samuel with a stern voice. "How long will you grieve for Saul, whom I have rejected as king of Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. I am sending you to Jesse, for I have chosen my king from among his sons."

Samuel knew the Lord was angry with him for not leaving immediately. Samuel loved the Lord, and did not want to anger him. But he was also afraid of what Saul might do to him. So Samuel said to the Lord, "How can I go? Saul will hear of it and kill me."

Then the Lord said, "I myself will tell you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I point out to you."

So Samuel set out for Bethlehem, where Jesse lived. When he entered the city, the elders came to greet him. They trembled in fear, because they knew he was a man of God, and they hoped that he was not bringing news of God's wrath. "Is your visit peaceful, O seer?" one of them asked.

Samuel answered with enthusiasm to assure the people of the city that God was not angry with them. "Yes! I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. So cleanse yourselves and join me today for the banquet." Samuel also gave instructions to have Jesse and his sons invited to the banquet.

When Samuel saw Eliab, one of Jesse's sons, he thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is here before me."

But Samuel was wrong in his impressions of Eliab, because God said, "Do not judge from his appearance, because



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart." So Jesse's seven sons stood in front of Samuel one at a time. And each time the Lord said, "I have not chosen him."

Samuel looked at Jesse and said, "Are these all the sons you have?"

Jesse answered, "There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep."

"Send for him," Samuel said. "We will

not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives. So Jesse sent word for David, his youngest son, to come back to meet Samuel.

When David arrived, the Lord said to Samuel, "There. Anoint him, for this is he!" Samuel immediately anointed David with the oil, and the Spirit of the Lord was with David.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
1 Samuel 16

Q&A

1. Why was Samuel afraid of Saul?
2. What did Samuel do when he saw David?

Bible Accent

Oil, particularly olive oil, was an important food source of the people of ancient Israel. There were two main methods for extracting oil from olives. Olives would be crushed and placed in baskets. The oil would drip down and be collected into containers, produced the highest quality oil. By using the second method, the olive pulp would be squeezed and oil would seep out. A second squeezing sometimes produced additional oil. Oil was a basic ingredient for perfumes and a fuel for lamps. It also was used as part of the offerings the people made to God, and was used for anointings as a sign of a blessing from God. This tradition is still with us in the church today, one example being the sacrament of anointing of the sick.

St. Polycarp

Polycarp had been a disciple of John the Baptist, and he also knew many of the first Apostles. He received religious instruction from them and became one of the bishops who were called the "Apostolic Fathers." He traveled to Rome to meet with the pope concerning the observance of Easter. Some of the churches in Asia were celebrating Easter at different times, and Polycarp hoped to set a date on which all the churches would be in agreement. The pope and Polycarp did not settle the disagreement, but they remained on peaceful terms with each other. During a time of persecution of the Christians in Asia, Polycarp was arrested in his home. He spent time in prayer while his captors ate a meal he had prepared for them. When he was brought before the governor, Polycarp declared himself a Christian who would not deny Jesus to worship Caesar. He was burned to death for his faith. We honor him on Feb. 23.

Puzzle

Decide whether the following questions are true or false. The answers can be found in the First Book of Samuel. The chapter and verse have been provided as hints. Answers on page 12.

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| 1. Samuel was raised by a priest named Eli. (1:28) | T | F |
| 2. God sent a plague of mice to Ashod. (5:6) | T | F |
| 3. Samuel appointed his sons as kings in Israel. (8:1) | T | F |
| 4. King Saul did not obey God's command. (13:14) | T | F |
| 5. The giant Goliath defeated David in battle. (17:50) | T | F |
| 6. David spared Saul's life. (24:13) | T | F |

Bible Trivia

David was from Bethlehem. Do you know another person whose birth in Bethlehem is told in stories in the New Testament? Send answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, PO Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Please include your name, address and school name. All entries must be received by March 7, 2002. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. The winner to the last trivia question was Maria Kane of Rochester, a student in the Seton Home Study Program. In response to "Can you name the four Gospels of the New Testament?", Maria wrote, "The four Gospels of the New Testament are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John."

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