

I have recently been reading about David in the Bible. The first thing that is recorded is how he was anointed by Samuel. God told Samuel to go to Jesse in order to anoint one of his sons as a future king. Now Samuel was



quite apprehensive about this because King Saul already had sons who would naturally be considered as next in line to become king. The anointing would signify that the person chosen would be the future king so obviously King Saul was not going to be very happy if he heard about this and was quite likely to have Samuel killed as a result. The fact that Jesse's sons would not be eligible to be king according to their birth, would also not make sense to Samuel. Why would God choose one of Jesse's sons instead of someone from the natural royal line?



The choices that God makes are not always the choices that **we** would make. Sometimes people whom God chooses to do certain things may to us seem inappropriate choices. This is because we only see things as they are at the present time, but God sees the future and knows the plans that He already has for each one of us.

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No

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No

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No

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No

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No

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No

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No

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Yes

Jesse had eight sons, but God had not told Samuel which of those he had to anoint as future king. When the first tall son was brought to Samuel, he thought that he looked just the man for the job, but God rejected that choice and said that people look on the outward appearances, but that He Himself looks at the heart. Seven of the sons were brought to Samuel one by one, but God rejected them all. Samuel told Jesse that God had not chosen any of them.



The youngest son, David, who was probably around the age of fifteen at that time, was looking after the sheep and had not been invited to make the sacrifices to the Lord with the rest of the family. In any case, if king's were chosen in order of age there was not much chance of the chosen one being David with having seven brothers older than himself!

David was sent for and when he arrived God told Samuel that he was the one to be anointed, so he was anointed in the presence of his brothers. I do not know what his brothers thought about that but I expect that they were not very pleased!

To us God sometimes appears to make rather odd choices. He takes us on paths that would not be our choices. He knows what the future holds for each one of us. He knows how we can best be used in our lives for His purposes, regardless of our own thoughts or ambitions. One thing that God does is to prepare us for what lies ahead, which is often something that we do not realise until some time later.



I used to teach in a primary school. It was a job that I had always wanted to do and I absolutely loved it. It was a real pleasure to go to work each day and make a difference to the lives of those young children. It was my choice of career and I was looking forward to continuing in the job until I retired. God had other plans for me though that were certainly not at all in my own mind. When I was 46 years of age God drastically changed my life and I knew that

He was telling me to leave the job that I loved doing. “Why God?” was the question that I must have

asked Him thousands of times. **Why? Why? Why? Why? Why? Why?**

The future did not seem at all clear to me. I was being taken out of my comfort zone. Would we manage financially? What was I supposed to be doing? Had I heard God correctly or was it just my own thoughts? Where was God leading me? The words of an old hymn helped me through that rough period of time. ‘ **Many things about tomorrow, I don’t seem to understand; but I know who holds tomorrow and I know who holds my hand.** ’ I clung onto the fact that it was God’s choice of the path for my life and even though I did not understand His reasons, I knew that it was more important to follow His choice rather than my own. I knew that He had more ahead for me, even though I did not know what that ‘more’ was going to entail.



For a while I ended up helping a friend with housework and baby-sitting. Washing a kitchen floor, hoovering, pegging out washing, ironing and baby-sitting were most certainly not included in my desired schedule of life and I cannot honestly say that any of those things gave me pleasure, with the “Why God” question constantly being asked.



One thing that very much puzzled me at the time was the fact that I normally had a class of 35 – 40 children and as a Christian was able to tell them about Jesus, yet it seemed as if that opportunity was being taken away from me. During the next few years I began to speak at school assemblies and gradually these increased until I was visiting many schools throughout the area. There were usually 200 – 600 children in those assemblies so God had taken 35 – 40 from me and given me thousands. How about that for a swap! God used my previous teaching experience to launch me into an area that had never even entered my head. God’s choice became my choice.

God’s choices are not always easy to understand or to put into practice. They may involve taking us out of our comfort zone, yet knowing that we are following God’s choice for our lives is far more satisfying than being comfortable or following our own choices.

Bible Reading: Anointing of David 1 Samuel 16: 1 - 13

