

3.

God who will succeed. And it is only as we keep absolutely true to Him that we can expect to continue with his blessing. We must not fix our affection on things earthly but on things above. We must support and pray for and work for human things only as long as they are true to Him. When they turn aside from Him, then we must look to Him for leadership and the correct place where we should transfer our loyalty and a leader. This is the situation in which Samuel found himself. The Lord asked him no longer to mourn for Saul but to turn his attention in the new direction in which God was going to lead him.

The situation of Samuel is quite different than that of a Christian worker today. God has given us His revelation in the Word. We have to study its principles and apply them. We learn certain principles from this chapter but we have to apply them ourselves to the best of our ability under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. God ordinarily does not reveal His truths directly to us today but only through the Scripture. In that day it was different. The Scripture was not yet given in its entirety. Samuel was a spokesman for God and God was leading him without his fully understanding that which God was giving him. Consequently we find that here God was telling him to do something that was different from that which Samuel might have selected. Samuel did not himself choose the new king but God guided him to the one who was to rule Israel.

It is interesting to note in this first verse that God informs Samuel from what family the new king would come. He told him he would be a son of Jesse of Bethlehem but he did not tell him which son. Thus Samuel was given a certain amount of knowledge but not complete knowledge. We find in the subsequent verses that when Samuel saw the tall, fine, attractive looking oldest son of Jesse, he was certain that this was the man that God had selected. God however, informed him that he was wrong. He was looking as man looks, on the outward appearance, but God was looking on the heart and it was necessary to find God's choice rather than to take that which appealed to him.

In these days God does not ordinarily tell us <sup>directly</sup> /who He has selected for a cer-