



THE VOICE OF EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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THE FLESH ALWAYS SEEKS TO KILL THE SPIRIT

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We want to take our Scripture text today from **1ST Samuel. 16:1-3**, "**And the Lord said unto Samuel, How long will thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided Me a king among his sons. And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me. And the Lord said, Take a heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the Lord. And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee.**" As we can clearly see in our Scripture text, Samuel is grief stricken concerning Saul. Jehovah ultimately rejected Saul because of Saul's rebellion and willful disobedience. For those of us who desire to walk in the Holy Spirit we are always grieved by sin, sinners, and rebellion? Samuel was as a little child in the eyes of Jehovah at this time and therefore Samuel needed to be encouraged by the Word of the Lord. We are able to see that Jehovah had a greater plan for Israel and one that Samuel was not able to see at that present time. Personally, you may have just gone through a tragedy or perplexing situation: however Jehovah is preparing and providing something greater for you. Many times our weaknesses and frailties hide from us what God is about to do. Too often we become discouraged with our present circumstances and therefore we fail to realize that Christ is working behind the scenes for our betterment. Jehovah had completely rejected Saul

from reigning over Israel: disobedience always displeases our Lord? Any time the Lord gets ready to move, there will always be a manifestation of the Holy Spirit to not only prepare the way but to provide for the upcoming mission. The first thing we witness is Jehovah told Samuel to go and fill his horn with oil. The filling of Samuels's horn with oil was symbolic of the Holy Spirit. Anything that Jehovah ever does will always be anointed by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is Jehovah's confirmation and stamp of approval upon the subject He is about to use as His chosen vessel. In our Scripture text we witness as Jehovah tells Samuel He has provided Himself a new king for Israel and that king would come from the house of Jesse. As a matter of history after Israel defeated the city of Jericho: by faith Rahab the harlot married a man named Salmon. Those two begat Boaz, Boaz and Ruth then begat Obed, Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse ultimately begat king David. Man in his human reasoning could never fathom in a million years the many plans God has for His redeemed. Never underestimate who and what Jehovah can use in His service. We are told in **1ST Corinthians 1:26-29**, "**For ye see your calling brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God have chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the**

world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence."

Religious people are always offended when Christ raises up someone to fulfill His plans and purpose. In the above Scripture passage Paul said God would use things that are despised. Remember when David went to face Goliath and how his brothers attacked him and despised him greatly. They declared David was a proud little boy coming curiously to investigate the matter of war! Some of you have faced adversity all of your lives simply because God's touch has been upon your life. We now witness as fear, trepidation, and anxiety would seek to infiltrate the mind of the prophet of God. Samuel asked Jehovah: how can I go? If Saul hear it, he will kill me. The flesh will always seek to kill the spirit and therefore the two cannot abide together. The flesh will always seek to hinder the work of God. The truth is Jehovah cannot be stopped but His plans can be hindered through adversity. One of the greatest problems facing the modern church is that men are attempting to build the church or their denomination through the works of the flesh. Regretfully, when carnally minded leaders seek to build anything without the Holy Spirit anointing, their attempt will be followed by complete and total failure. When Christ seeks to do anything His Holy Ghost stamp and seal of approval will be found upon that work. The works

of men will always come to naught because God's anointing is not upon their frail, human attempts. Anything God anoints will not only produce life but souls will be added to that work. Samuel feared the gravity of Saul's carnality. Samuel understood Saul's carnal spirit was one of death: in all reality, it was a spirit of murder that possessed Saul. Anytime there is a confrontation of this magnitude against God's anointing, it is because Satan is able to witness what Jehovah is about to do. When Herod the Tetrarch realized the wise men had returned home another way, he sent soldiers to Bethlehem to murder all the children from two years old and under. Never underestimate the power of the flesh; it will kill anything that gets in its way. Satan always seeks to work through our flesh but God desires to work through the Holy Spirit within our spirit. The flesh will always persecute what the Spirit of God is about to do. The apostle Paul declared in **Galatians 4:29**, "**But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.**" Ishmael and Hagar both represent the works of the flesh. Sarah and Isaac represent the manifestation and work of the Holy Spirit. As believers, we can most of the time discern a matter if we either look for the signs of the flesh or the Holy Ghost stamp of approval. As quickly as Samuel recognized the work of the flesh within Saul and how he would seek to murder him, Jehovah suddenly turned that work of death into an atmosphere of Holy Ghost Spirit filled worship. While reading this passage of Scripture some time ago, I witnessed the power of God in a very unique and unusual way. I realized Jehovah is as wise as a serpent and yet harmless as a dove. Samuel declared: Saul will kill me. Jehovah was certainly aware of the murderous attempt that would erupt

from Saul's heart because He knew Saul would be threatened by a new king. So what does Jehovah do: He turns a murderous situation into a blessing? Jehovah declares: take you a heifer, make sacrifice, and come and worship me. In the process of this seemingly disastrous circumstance Jehovah commands Samuel to invite Jesse the Bethlehemite to this spirit filled worship service and there Jehovah would make His choice. It doesn't matter how impossible your situation may appear right now Christ has the power to turn it around in just a moment. When the Holy Spirit gets involved with any matter He does not harm or hurt anyone. People get hurt because of the works of the flesh.

When anyone is driven by the works of flesh there will not only be hurt and harm but in the end there will be death. Notice the profound words of the apostle Paul found in **Romans 8:5-9**, "**For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**"

Regretfully, Saul's mind and affection was set upon death and murder. Because of this Jehovah had to renew Samuel's mind and help him to get his mind upon the things of the Spirit. We are told in **Ephesians 4:23**, "**And be renewed in the spirit of your mind.**" Only the Holy Spirit can renew the spirit of our minds. Every believer will either be changed to become more spiritually minded or we will remain carnally minded. Regretfully, those that are in the flesh can never please

God. I am always amazed at the weakness of our humanity. What a blessing to know in spite of our fragility and carnality, Jehovah fully understands our heart? Because of this divine change of leadership many great victories were wrought through King David. Great change is coming within all of our lives. May I humbly encourage each of you to pray for the upcoming 2020 presidential election? With the right leadership God can do anything. I do not know if Donald Trump will be re-elected in 2020: however, I do know if he is not re-elected America will certainly return to its downward spiral and freefall. May God have mercy on these United States of America!

We humbly encourage and invite you to be with us in our upcoming revival meeting in Hickory, North Carolina April 16-19. These revival meetings are more needful than ever.

America must repent and turn from her wicked ways if we are to endure as a nation. Thank you for your love and faithful support for The Voice of Evangelism. Please pray and agree with us that beginning in 2021 these revival meetings will be completely free of charge for any and everyone who wants to attend. In spite of the coming adversity and persecution, there will be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. I want each of you to receive all that Christ has for you.

Serving With You All,

Pastor / Evangelist David W. Lankford