No Substitutions

David and Saul choreographed by Allison Gilliam

A lot of us are more like Saul than David. We allow ourselves to be distracted by outside influences. We try to make things better, but no matter how hard we try, we only find temporary answers.

READER: It is interesting to note (*Saul comes to stage*) that, even as the Lord departed Saul, he would, unknowingly, bring David into his court, the very one who will take his place. Little did he know that this was the beginning of God's plan for His people. Hear the words of I Samuel 16:21-23.

²¹ David came to Saul and entered his service. (David comes to stage and bows before the king) Saul liked him very much, (Saul places hand on David's shoulder and David rises) and David became one of his armorbearers. ²² Then Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, (Saul shifts head) "Allow David to remain in my service, for I am pleased with him."

²³ Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul (Saul holds head), David would take up his lyre and play (David gets his lyre). Then relief would come to Saul (Saul relaxes); he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.

We are told in chapter seventeen that one day the Philistines came to challenge the Israelites and the giant Goliath challenged them. We all know what happened next. Continuing in I Samuel 17:38-40:

³⁸ Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic (*pause*). He put a coat of armor on him (*pause*) and a helmet on his head (*pause*). ³⁹ David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them (*David tries to walk*).

(David gestures to Saul) "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off (pause). ⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand (pause), chose five smooth stones from the stream (pause), put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag (pause) and, with his sling in his hand (pause), approached the Philistine.

(Conclude with David poised with slingshot outstretched while someone sings He Is Here by Kirk Talley. Then ask all to stand and sing Holy Ground by Geron Davis.

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