

angel-like disposition. Many men neither wise nor clever have made fortunes. Not physical strength, not intellectual greatness, not material possessions, not externalisms of any kind, but the *character*, is the great thing in any true estimate of men. Whether they are found in humble spheres of life or more conspicuous stations, those whose hearts are right with God should alone command the homage of respect and esteem.

3. *God often calls young people to important stations.* David was only sixteen when he was anointed to be king. He then entered upon the course of training for his future responsible duties. Had he foolishly squandered his time, saying to himself, "I'm going to be king some day, so I need not keep sheep, or perform the tasks Samuel sets me," he would have proved even a worse king than Saul. The difference between David and most young people is merely this, that he knew what was in store for him, and they do not. All the same, we should use faithfully the precious opportunities given us to prepare for any station to which God may call us.

4. *He prepares men for their special work.* David's occupation as a shepherd taught him how to care for the nation when he was elevated to be its ruler. There he learned courage, and watchfulness and responsibility. In

the school of Samuel he acquired all the accomplishments of that age—learning, music, poetry, etc. The discipline he underwent while persecuted by Saul trained him to be a leader of men and a successful warrior. So God is fitting each one for his part in life if he will only receive instruction meekly and try to be faithful in the duties that come to hand day by day.

#### ADDED POINTS.

1. We hold all our gifts and privileges subject to a wise use of them.
2. When one leader fails, God has another ready. His cause rests on one man exclusively.
3. The fear of what others will do or say keeps many a one back from the path of duty.
4. If we will only do the next clear duty, God will shew us what lies beyond it.
5. We should be prudently silent where talking too freely may make trouble.
6. A guilty conscience dreads rebuke.
7. We should be cautious and charitable in our estimates of others.
8. God has called many great men from humble stations in life.
9. God never calls anyone to a duty without giving his Holy Spirit for its performance.
10. Do not be impatient under God's discipline for future usefulness.

### BETWEEN THE LESSONS.

Why did Samuel mourn for Saul? Wherein was his mourning wrong? When may sorrow displease God? What did God tell Samuel to do? Was Samuel afraid to go? Why would Saul seek to kill him? Was his proposed action treasonable? Why did not God tell him which of Jesse's sons he was to anoint? How was he to explain his visit to Bethlehem? Why were the elders afraid? How many sons had Jesse? Which one was absent from the feast? Describe David's appearance? Did any of those present understand the meaning of Samuel's act? Contrast David and Saul in regard to their preparation for the kingship?

### THE BLACKBOARD.

#### THE LORD LOOKETH ON THE



What God wants to find in our hearts. Illustrate from the lesson.

OBEDIENCE—(Samuel)

CONSECRATION—("Sanctify yourselves")

HUMILITY—(David).

Write these in the heart as you review.