

Identifying a Future Leader for God's People

1 Samuel 16:1-13 / 2 Samuel 5:1-5

Additional Notes

Setting the Stage...

If you were on a committee tasked to review resumes to lead an organization, what would you ordinarily be looking for as qualifications in an applicant?

Based upon what 1 Samuel 16:1-13 tells us about David, do you think he would ordinarily be chosen today as the prime candidate to lead a nation? Why or why not?

As kings go (i.e. leader of the nation, "Israel/Judah") how do you think Biblical history would rank King David? Why do you think that is so?

The Key Idea of the Passage: I'd like to suggest, the last part of verse 7 as the key unifying idea of this passage... (Highlight it your Bible in red colored pencil or highlighter)...

The Need to Identify an Emerging Leader (vss. 1-5)

What had happened to the previous king of Israel, Saul (Read 1 Samuel 15:17-35)?

Why had this happened to him?

How does this passage indicate a king was to be chosen in Israel/Judah?

What do you know about "anointing" – what appears to have been its significance Biblically?

So what was the process – what was Samuel instructed to do? (vss. 2b-5).

Why do you think Samuel, the religious leader in Israel at the time, might have been fearful?

Identifying the Future leader of Israel (vss. 6-12)

So, at Samuel's direction, Jesse brings each of his sons before Samuel...

Which ones are mentioned in vss. 6-10?

What was Samuel's response when he saw them?

And what was God's response to each one...)

Samuel's final question to Jesse... Are ALL the young men here?

Jesse's answer...

Samuel's response...

God's response...

An important observation... Samuel, as respected prophet, was not able to identify/choose the leader for God's people, Israel! The choice was God's!

Does vs. 7 mean that young David was entirely without natural qualifications? (cp. vs. 12a, 17:31-38)

The Formation Years of David as Leader

What key issue in godly leadership is identified in 1 Samuel 16:13 following David's anointing that helped David prepare for his 40 year ministry as king in Israel/Judah?

Bible scholars estimate David was 10-15 years of age at the time of his "anointing" ... 2 Samuel 5:1-5 indicates he assumed kingship at age 30... This means there was at least 15 years between his "anointing" and "kingship!" What lessons do you think can be learned from this to help young emerging leaders?

What can be learned from David's commitment to "touch not the Lord's anointed" prior to his personal assumption of his role as king?

What do you think might be some of the lessons we can learn from this story regarding the selection of key leaders in the Church (and elsewhere) from a God-centered approach for choosing leaders?

What sometimes happens in a religious organization when for various reasons a leader is disqualified and a new one has to be chosen?