

How to Find God's Man I Samuel 16:1-12

Introduction: Selecting a leader can be a difficult procedure, especially when there are spiritual qualities to be considered. I Samuel 16 gives us an illustration of how to seek God's direction in the selection of a spiritual leader.

I. Let go of the _____ 16:1; 15:22-23

Samuel was a man of God who grieved over Saul's sin and the _____ it would bring. But now it was time to move on. God can't _____ you or _____ you if you aren't willing to let go of the past (Phil 3:13-14). When you choose to live in the past, you miss out on God's working in the _____.

II. Engage in Spirit-filled _____ 16:1, 3-5

God wanted Samuel to resume his ministry. We are more easily led by God when we are _____ and moving than when we are inactive and stagnant.

III. _____ God 16:1-2

Samuel not only grieved over the past but _____ about the future. Note three areas where he needed to exercise faith:

1. God's _____ 16:1; 15:28

Saul had been rejected by God though he continued his duties as king. But during this time God was preparing a man who would be a _____ leader and lead them to become a glorious nation. The first step of faith for Samuel was confidence in God's providence, recognizing that God was still carrying out His _____ for Israel as a nation. God is _____ at work, even when we don't see His hand (Jeremiah 29:11-12).

2. God's _____ 16:1-2

The sacrifice would be public, but the anointing would take place privately. The entire day was designed by God to protect Samuel from Saul discovering what was happening.

3. God's _____ 16:1-3, 6-10

God gave Samuel direction, but he had to learn to follow God's leading _____ at a time.

IV. Put away personal _____ 16:6-11

1. Avoid making judgments based on _____ appearance 16:6-7

2. Avoid making _____ 1 Samuel 9:2

3. Avoid excluding _____ 16:10-11

V. Establish a _____ perspective 16:7; Prov 4:23

God delights in using _____ things. He had been working in David's life to produce a _____ life with a _____ heart to become a great leader (Mat 20:25-28; 25:21).

VI. Follow God's _____ 16:11-13; Romans 8:14

God has given us the _____ to lead us. He will lead us into God's will as we _____ ourselves to Him and to the _____ of God. If we are surrendered to God in the specific truths of God's Word, the Spirit will lead us in the areas that are not specific. The key is a _____ heart.

Study Questions:

1. Sometimes God chastens us by giving us what we selfishly ask. Read James 4:2-3. What are two ways we fail when it comes to prayer? Share a time in your life where God chastened you by giving you what you selfishly asked? What did you learn from that experience?
2. Note from 1 Samuel 16:4-5 how God caused Samuel to re-focus on his ministry. While the church is waiting on God's leading and timing for a new pastor, what are some crucial areas of ministry that must be maintained while we wait?
3. Note that during this period of time Samuel was grieving over Saul's failure as a king and anxious about Israel's future. How does that relate to our political condition today? How does confidence in God's providence calm our troubled hearts and keep us moving forward in our faith and service to God?
4. Note from 1 Samuel 16:6-11 how Samuel had to lay aside personal preferences in order to discern God's leading for Israel's next king.
 - What are some pre-conceived perceptions you've had about pastors that have changed?
 - Jesse seemed to think David could not possibly be Israel's next king. Share some experiences in your own life where you underestimated a person's potential growth or ability to serve yet God used them effectively in serving His church?
 - Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-30. Why does God often use people who may appear unimpressive in the world's eyes to serve His purposes?