

BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL
THE LORD LOOKETH ON THE HEART
I SAMUEL 16

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Introduction

We saw last week that Saul had changed into a self-indulgent and disobedient king which led to his failure and his rejection by God.

I. THE LORD MAKES HIS OWN CHOICES! (16:1-5)

A. The LORD Indicated To Samuel That The Time For Mourning Over Saul And His Failures Was Past. (vs 1)

Samuel loved Saul and when Saul sinned and was rejected by the LORD, Samuel grieved for him.

However the LORD had not forgotten Samuel or Israel!

B. The LORD Said That It Was Time To Anoint A New King!

1. The LORD's Directions. (vs 1)

2. Samuel's Objections. (vs 2)

3. The LORD's Provisions. (vs 2-3)

4. Samuel's Obedience. (vs 4)

5. The People's Fear. (vs 5)

II. THE LORD'S CHOICES ARE NOT MAN'S CHOICES! (16:6-13)

A. Samuel Makes A Mistake. (vs 6)

The LORD's choice may not always be the logical choice in the eyes of men.

B. The Choices That Men Make. (vs 7)

1. Choice Because Of Looks.

2. Choice Because Of Strength.

3. Choice Because Of Worldly Reasoning.

C. The LORD Is Not Fooled By Outward Appearances.

In the final analysis, it was not the biggest or strongest or most attractive who was chosen king. It was the youngest and least likely.

1. The LORD Looks For Those With Hearts Like His Own. (13:4)

This means living in harmony with Him.

2. The LORD Seeks Those With Committed Hearts That He Might Support Them, Because His Choice Is The One Who Is Teachable, Humble, Dependent, And Reliant On Himself.

2 Chronicles 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." (Words spoken to King Asa)

3. The LORD Seeks Men Of Integrity.

(The Psalmist Asaph said of David in Psalm 78:70-72)

III. THE LORD'S CHOICES FIT INTO HIS TIME SCHEDULE! (16:14-21)

Samuel anointed David, just as the LORD had directed; but David did not assume the throne immediately.

Just as there was a lapse of time between the day Saul was rejected as king and the day on which he eventually died, so also there was a lapse of time between the day on which David was anointed king and the day he assumed that high office.

We can learn several important lessons from this divine delay:

A. The LORD's Time Schedule Often Includes A Time Of Preparation.

1. David Returned To Tending His Sheep. (vs 19)

2. Saul Was Troubled By Fits Of Depression. (vs 14)

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3. **David Was Summoned To Minister To Saul.**
(vs 15-22)
4. **David Was Exposed To The Office Of The King As He Served Saul's Household.**
5. **David Was Promoted To Armor Bearer.**
This allowed him to march beside the king into battle.

B. The LORD's Time Schedule Is The Basis For Christian Patience. (Psalm 37:7)

We are told often in the New Testament to be patient.

Longsuffering, which is a form of patience, is listed in Galatians 5:22 as a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Yet it is often difficult for us to be patient.

David understood that the LORD had a definite time schedule. Because he understood this truth, he was able to be patient.

We can learn from David's example. When we trust in the LORD God and rest in the knowledge that He has a definite plan and time schedule for our lives, we too are able to face difficult circumstances with patience.

IV. THE LORD CHOOSES THE FAITHFUL!

Eccl 9:11—"...the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong..."
(1 Corinthians 1:25-31)

A. It Is In The Little Things That We Prove Ourselves Capable Of The Big Things. (Matthew 25:14-30—talents)

1. David was faithfully tending his father's sheep.
2. David was faithful in serving King Saul.
3. David was faithful in serving the LORD's people.
4. David was faithful to his friend Jonathan.

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Because of that faithfulness he was chosen by the LORD and admired by both men and women.

B. When The LORD Develops Our Inner Qualities, He's Never In A Hurry.

Philippians 1:6—"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"

Conclusion

The LORD will use what we have if we will yield it to Him!

Moses had nothing but a shepherds rod when the LORD called.

Samson used a dry bone from a donkey's head as a weapon.

Shamgar used an ox goad.

A lad yielded his lunch of bread and fish .

The LORD is concerned about small things. Matthew 10:29-31
Matthew 10:29-31— "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Outward appearances can be deceiving, yet men often make their judgments based upon them.

The LORD's judgments, on the other hand, are founded on the unseen condition of the heart.