

The Kings of Israel

David – 1 Samuel 16:1 – 13



Sermon Discussion Guide

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STUDY NOTES

Samuel's fears (16:2).

Samuel's fears were real. In order to go where God had commanded, he had to pass through Saul's town. Samuel had already told Saul that his kingdom would be replaced (15:28), so Saul could have been paranoid and on watch for Samuel.

Appearance . . . height (16:7).

The choice of Saul had been based on distinctive physical attributes. He was an "impressive young man . . . a head taller than any of the others (9:2). Now Samuel is instructed to ignore those criteria.

Saul ruled (16:14 – 17:58).

Saul ruled Israel for 15 years after Samuel first proclaimed that the kingdom would be taken from him. These verses describe the beginning of the transition to King David.

1. What do you look for in a friend? Looks? Brains? Personality? Money? Other _____?

God had led the prophet Samuel to anoint Saul as Israel's king. Samuel has just told Saul that, because of his disobedience, the kingdom has been torn from him and given to another. The new person to be anointed as king was chosen by God for his heart, not his appearance or position in life.

READ 1 Samuel 16:1 – 13

2. With what characteristics did Samuel judge Eliab that caused him to believe Eliab was to be king?
3. On what basis do you tend to judge people?
 - a) Age
 - b) Surgical mask wearer
 - c) Non-surgical mask wearer
 - d) Social Distancer
 - e) Online Worshipper
 - f) In-person Worshipper
 - g) Intelligence
 - h) Accomplishments
 - i) Possessions
 - j) Other: _____
4. What question did Samuel ask after Jesse had presented his seven sons?
5. What does it mean to you that God passed over seven of Jesse's sons – just to pick David?
 - a) The other seven weren't good enough.
 - b) Those who seem best may not be God's choice.
 - c) God's way of looking at people is different than ours ...
 - d) Age doesn't matter to God.
 - e) The most important things about a person are invisible.

STUDY NOTES

David anointed king (16:13).

David was anointed king, but it was done in secret; he was not publicly anointed until much later (2 Samuel 2:4; 5:3). Saul was still legally the king, but God was preparing David for his future responsibilities. The anointing oil poured over David's head stood for holiness. It was used to set people or objects apart for God's service. Each king and high priest of Israel was anointed with oil. This commissioned him as God's representative to the nation. Although God rejected Saul's kingship by not allowing any of his descendants to sit on Israel's throne. Saul, himself remained in his position until his death.

6. What was God looking for when the sons of Jesse were presented to Samuel?
7. Why did Samuel select David as the King?
8. As one of David's brothers, how would you have felt, being passed over in favor of David?
9. A story has been told of a Pastor who dressed as a vagrant on a Sunday morning. When he entered his church, he did not receive a greeting from anyone and when he headed towards the front of the sanctuary to sit, one of the deacons blocked his way and led him to a seat in the very back – no one sat near him. When it was time for the message, everyone looked around trying to figure out where the Pastor was. Slowly the "vagrant" made his way from the back of the church to the podium and began removing his dirty clothing and wiping the dirt from his face.....

What would be different in the story, if others saw the man as God sees him?

10. How do you want to be judged by others?

Does your above answer demand you judge others by the same criteria? If so, what criteria is included, what criteria is excluded?

11. Knowing that God "Looks at the heart", what can we do to make our hearts more attractive to God?