

Cole Community Church Growth Groups
Leaders Guide for 1 Samuel 16 1-13
Week of February 5th

A Matter of the Heart

Introduction: In the previous chapter, Samuel shares God's displeasure with Saul for going against God's words of instruction and more specifically for his self centered leadership. The story now unfolds how God seeks a man after His own heart as we read in 13:14. As told by Bergen in his commentary "This chapter provides one of the most fascinating examples of the Lord's inclination to choose 'the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not - to nullify the things that are' (1 Cor 1:28).

When this story concludes, an unlettered rural shepherd boy has become the Lord's anointed-'brave man and a warrior' (v18) who uses his supernaturally enhanced abilities to overpower even evil spirits." What is it about the heart....

Read verses 1-3 The divine mission

1. What is Samuel's state of mind? What does the Lord ask Samuel to do and why does Samuel have trepidation?
 - ♦ Samuel was in depression, mourning for Saul, his selfishness and his sin.
 - ♦ Yet God gives Samuel reproof to reject what He rejects. He shares with Samuel the words he had Samuel speak to Saul, the most powerful man in Israelite society: "I have rejected him as king over Israel".
 - ♦ Having said this, God then gives Samuel a mission, to pick the King that God leads him to pick
 - ♦ There is trepidation on Samuel's part as he knows Saul's self-centeredness would mean certain death if he got wind of what was to happen.
 - ♦ But God gives Samuel a plan to make the trip seem part of his ritual duties. As a levitical judge, Samuel was authorized to sacrifice such an animal as part of a ritual that atoned for an unsolved murder committed in a rural region (Deut. 21:1-9).
 - ♦ Youngblood terms this divine mission as the "capstone of Samuel's career.

Read verses 4-5 The elders reception

2. What is the reaction to Samuel's visit and why? What are Samuel's instructions to the elders?
 - ♦ The elders were frightened, perhaps worried with a possible murder there would be legal action
 - ♦ They may also had fear of Saul and of the reputation of Samuel after the recent execution of Agag.
 - ♦ Samuel did instruct the elders to get ready for a sacrifice by consecration of themselves which was to place themselves in ritual cleanliness.
 - ♦ Samuel then went to the house of Jesse where the new king would come from and personally invited him and his sons to the consecration.

Read verses 6 – 10 The anointing ceremony

3. What is happening here between God and Samuel? What prophetic words are uttered by God that brings chills to you in this passage?
 - ♦ As the ceremony started according to Bergen's commentary, "...the prophet was portrayed as not knowing the Lord's will. This is the only time in Biblical narrative when Samuel was shown in this uncomfortable position."
 - ♦ When Samuel saw Jesse's eldest son, Eliab who was tall and handsome he concluded that would be the Lord's anointed.

- ♦ The Lord whispered to Samuel that Eliab has been rejected as the next king of Israel.
- ♦ God the uttered one of the most important statements in all of Scripture regarding divine concerns and human capacities.
- ♦ Have your group now read verse 7
- ♦ So the sons continue to parade through but God rejects them all – so perplexing to Samuel.
- ♦ As it turns out, Jesse had one last son who was the smallest, out herding the sheep

Read verses 11 – 13 The new king

4. What about this selection makes one think of Christ in later times
 - ♦ The “smallest” places this son of Jesse in sharp contrast to the rejected king
 - ♦ David was the forgotten son, not the firstborn, out herding his flock of sheep – he was last of the lot just as many of the disenfranchised God has used throughout time
 - ♦ Christ was born of a virgin birth, in a lowly manger the son of a poor carpenter.
 - ♦ David was also from a small village of Bethlehem
 - ♦ The important thing was David’s heart and only God could judge that.
 - ♦ David was anointed with the oil and suddenly filled with the “spirit” which was typical of the coming of the spirit in the baptism of Jesus.
 - ♦ David was the Lord’s anointed. Jesus Christ, David’s son was the ultimate Anointed One chosen by God to take our sins and bring us true salvation.

The heart – our heart....discuss within your group the implications for us in our daily walk

This is what the Bible tells us of the heart:

- ♦ 1 Chron 28:9 – God not only sees our hearts, but He searches them
- ♦ Psalm 26:2 – Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind.
- ♦ Heb. 4:12-13 – God knows our thoughts and motives
- ♦ Jer. 17:9 – We think we know our own hearts but we do not so we had better accept God’s verdict
- ♦ John 7:24, 1 Cor. 4:5 – We should be careful not to judge others since we cannot know their hearts
- ♦ Psalm 119 23:24 - Search me O God, and know me; try me and know my thoughts. And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way of everlasting
- ♦ Psalm 51:10 – Create in me a pure heart, O God and renew a steadfast spirit in me.
- ♦ Psalm 119:2 – Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart
- ♦ Psalm 139:23 – Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts...
- ♦ Proverbs 4:23 – Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.
- ♦ Proverbs 27:19 – As water reflects a man’s face, so a man’s heart reflects the man
- ♦ Matthew 5:8 – Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God
- ♦ Matthew 6:21 – For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also
- ♦ Luke 16:15 – You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued in among men is detestable in God’s sight.
- ♦ Eph. 3 16:17a – I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.
- ♦ 1 Tim 1:5 – The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

- ♦ Heb 8:10 – This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their god and they will be my people.
5. What is meant by the “heart”?
 - ♦ In Biblical language the heart means the soul. We are not simply body but also soul.
 - ♦ A good metaphor is the Jewish Temple with an outer court, a court for priests and then the holy of holies. You cannot go any further than that.
 - ♦ The heart is the holy of holies....the human being as he or she truly is in their real character
 - ♦ We can disguise what is in our hearts by our outward appearances.
 - ♦ God goes right to the center, to the closet of our soul which is the thing He calls the heart

 6. What is God looking for in the heart?
 - ♦ God rejected all of David’s brothers so what did he see in David?
 - ♦ It was David’s love for the Lord, David’s attachment to the truth of God’s word.
 - ♦ If you want proof, read Psalm 119 where all one hundred and seventy six verse have to do with David’s love for the Bible.
 - ♦ Psalm 119 23:24 David says “Search me O God, and know me; try me and know my thoughts. And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way of everlasting.”
 - ♦ What God saw in David was spiritual character – the disposition that God is all we want and other things are very subordinate.

 7. If God looks at the heart, how are we to keep our hearts?
 - ♦ Do we realize the most precious thing we have is our soul, our heart?
 - ♦ Read Mark 8 35:38
 - ♦ First our soul must be put right by God – the new birth, the conversion by Him. At birth we are all wicked
 - ♦ Second, we need to look after our soul with great care....day by day in Bible reading and prayer. Proverbs 4:23. Fill your hearts with the word of truth. Meditate in your heart on the words of God. Guard your heart in an attitude of watchful prayer.
 - ♦ Third, cultivate our love for one another as in 1 Peter 1:22

Read Psalm 119 23-24. Is this a prayer you can courageously pray to God?

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