

Cole Community Church Growth Groups
Study Questions 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? (Deut. 21:1-9)

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?

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? (v7)

Read verses 11 – 13 The new king

4. What about this selection makes one think of Christ in later times

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

5. What is meant by the "heart"? (See references on back)
6. What is God looking for in the heart?
7. If God looks at the heart, how are we to keep our hearts?

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.