

Our God is a God of Action

1 Samuel 16:1-13

1. Chosen By Grace vs. 1-3

Although Samuel was hesitant to move forward, God through His grace continued to fulfill his promises by choosing a son of Jesse to be the new king.

Although our past experiences and our emotions can cause hesitancy, we need to remember who our God is, what He has done for us (He chose us!), and the promises He continues to faithfully keep towards us.

Reflection:

- a) Even though a difficult situation, we discover God is in control and working in and through that situation. What are some other examples in the Bible where we see this?
- b) Can you think of a situation in your life that seemed bad at the time, but you can look back at the situation and see how God worked in and through it for His purposes?

2. Committed to the Humble vs. 4-13

Samuel lacked patience, as he began to make judgments on the possible next king; basing upon physical appearance. However, God's choice in Israel's eyes was too young, too inexperienced, and too insignificant in his family's birth order, but he was God's choice because he had a humble heart towards Him. As a result, David was empowered by the Spirit of the Lord.

Looks can be deceiving. Only God knows who is humbly ready to serve him, and is ready to empower each one through the gift of the Holy Spirit. As a result, we should be cautious about judging other people and their potential effectiveness for the Lord, and we should not question our own abilities and gifts for service.

Reflection:

- a) We may feel that we do not have much to offer God—but that would be a superficial evaluation, based on our own limited perspective. If God is convicting you to serve, He sees your humble heart and therefore is committed to you. Is there anything God is guiding you to do that you have been hesitant towards? What steps will you take so that you may remain faithful to God?

- b) Just as we judge other people by the wrong standards, we often judge ourselves by the wrong standards. What are some common standards we judge ourselves against that can be unhealthy?

- c) Why should the gospel prevent us from having too high a view and too low a view of ourselves?

- d) What are some examples of snap judgments we make about people that we should not? Have you ever made a snap judgment about someone that you realized was wrong? Is there someone that you need to look at their heart rather than their outward appearances?

- e) Why should the church be the one place on earth where this happens the least? Is it? What can we do to help overcome this?