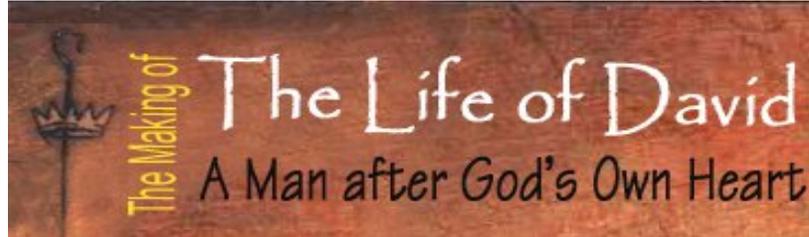




1 Samuel 16:1-13

When God Orchestrates Sunday, Feb 19th 2006



Imagine – If Jesus consulted world for His plans

TO: Jesus, Son of Joseph

From: Jordan Management Consultants

Dear Sir,

Thank you for submitting the resumes for the twelve men that you have picked for management positions in your new organization. All of them have now taken our battery of tests, and we not only run the test through our computer, but also arranged for personal interviews for each of them with our psychologist and vocational aptitude consultants. The profiles of all test are included, and you'll want to study each of the carefully.

As part of our services for your guidance, we make some general comments. It is the staff's opinion that most of your nominees are lacking in background, education, and vocational aptitudes for the type of enterprise you are undertaking. They do not have the team concept. We would recommend that you continue your search for persons of experience in managerial ability and proven capabilities.

Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper

Andrew has absolutely no qualities of leadership.

The two brothers--James and John--the sons of Zebedee, place personal interests above company loyalty.

Thomas demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale.

We feel it our duty to tell you that Matthew has been blacklisted by the Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau.

James and Thaddaeus have radical leanings and they both registered a high score on the manic-depressive scale.

One of the candidates, however, shows great potential. He's the man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, has a keen business mind, and has contacts in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious, and responsible. We recommend Judas Escariot as your comptroller and right-hand man. All of the other profiles are self-explanatory.

Sincerely, Jordan Management Consultants

God's ways...not our ways, not man's ways

- In many ways – it is what we need to understand

When God orchestrates a situation – nation, person, life

- Picture the idea of orchestrating – anything
- Likely that His means...will be different

Today...looking at God orchestrating a Nation

- Saul is king...God has rejected him (told twice)
- Waiting to see who, how, when...all unknown
- Just know that it is going to happen
 - Wonder if that is not true in you as well...

I. God's Timing...not our timing

1. Find Samuel – grieving over Saul

- a. In one sense – is the right, good response
- b. Word for grief...lamentation – like someone dying

2. In one sense – God is simply saying – “its time”

- a. Time to replace Saul...God's time

3. Samuel had to wait for God...His timing

- a. Often we would rush God...but he waits
- b. More...God's timing...is actually 17 years away

4. God's timing is key in God's orchestration

- a. Are you willing to wait?

II. God's Ways – Not our Ways

1. v.2-3 – What happening? Could be fear and hiding?

- a. *Could be* that Samuel is honestly afraid. Saul is getting more and more corrupt, afraid to die
- b. *Could be* that God gives a great cover story

2. Problems with this.... I have a problem with this

- a. **One – not the Samuel I know** – stood toe to toe with Saul – twice – in his face, told him he was rejected
- b. **Two – makes God the author of deceit, half lie**
 - i) Like teens deceiving parents, husband a wife

3. Better – to Samuel, this is not the right way, wrong

- a. **If were me – I would imagine how it would happen**
 - i) Perhaps Saul die in battle, or even from God
 - ii) Then...look for new King...God would point out
- b. **For Samuel – this is wrong, the means are wrong**
 - i) Can't have two kings – kill me...battle, civil war
 - ii) Doesn't understand what God is doing– 17 years

4. God's response...ignores – continues instruction

- a. **Imagine as a parent...boss...**
 - i) Not a debate, just continues telling how
- b. **The sacrifice – not deception, not cover story**
 - i) Key part of the appointing – right environment
 - ii) Midst of sacrifice to God –David’s reign is to be

5. Side note – God’s ways...are unfolding

- a. Samuel not given whole plan...just direction
- b. Why didn’t give map? One reason – dependence

6. Samuel obeys – even though doesn’t understand

- a. Love this – questions, honest, real – happens
- b. But, obeys, goes – does what God says
- c. Many a person quits right here – want my way

7. Notice Samuel’s reception

- a. **Kind of funny – love it–honest, real - Elders scared**
 - i) Maybe you are not this way – totally secure
 - ii) Some of this– are uncomfortable in such things
 - iii) Like boss calling to office. Pastor wants to talk to you. If my pastor called...afraid.
 - iv) What am I in trouble for. No lack of things, which one – start planning defense
- b. **But tells them it is peace...whew**
- c. **Consecrates and invites sons** – don’t know if they know – but know this – whole family invited

III. God’s Choice–not always ours

1. Picture the scene – imagine it all

2. Eliab is rejected by God – why?

- a. Answer–what God is looking for, different than man

3. Men choice – based on outward appearances

- a. **Eliab, Saul – were such men – looked like kings**
 - i) Tells us – Saul taller, handsome 📖
- b. **Saul focused on such things**
 - i) What looked like – Samuel, make look good
 - ii) Later – public opinion polls
- c. **Like it or not – more true than most will admit**
 - i) We judge – pick – book by its cover
 - ii) Race...stature...job...education...looks... heightwealth....car...clothes

4. Great danger – Samuel make same mistake

- a. If anyone should not have – he shouldn’t
- b. **Spiritual man...great one in the Bible**
- c. **His experience with Saul – fresh!**
 - i) He should have been inoculated to this – not

- d. Lesson – even spiritual people, can be wrong
i) Even spiritual people can judge on appearance

5. Because men choose this way – David overlooked

- a. Amazing...not even invited to feast – imagine
i) Disregarded by family, culture...world
- b. Wonder-if in this room – have many such David's
i) God picks – chooses such - **1 Cor 1:28-29** 🖥
ii) David overlooked by man...not by God
iii) God sees you, knows you...has a plan

c. Think of Gale Erwin

- i) Because of style at Calvary – not setting apart pastor with special clothes and such
ii) Enter church...try and pick the pastor out...so funny, so wrong

6. How then does God choose? How does He pick

- a. Key you hear me – if hear or heard wrong, you might think God has simple heart for underdog
i) Might think God is just balancing things – not!
ii) Simply that underdogs often focus on what God is really looking for
- b. God is looking at the heart...a heart after God
i) Picking not by what is on the outside
ii) Picking by what is on the inside
iii) Looking for a heart of obedience
iv) Say this as clearly as I can...this is needed
A. A heart of obedience....

7. Whom God picks...God can place

- a. If you are a David...seems impossible
b. Not true with the Lord – wait on Him

8. When God picks...God empowers

- a. Road ahead – is fought with peril
b. Yet here, anointed – chosen.
c. Here – Spirit comes upon
d. God's work, done God's way will never lack God's supply – physical...spiritual

Conclusion

Lessons from this for this

This understanding – gives everyone here great hope

- If it was appearances – many left out, w/o hope
- If it is heart, obedience – God can do in you
- This is an invitation to all God has, His choosing

This understanding – gives great warning

- Danger in thinking will make it – because appearances
- **What highly esteemed among men, abomination to God**

This understanding – gives great focus

- If it is not externals–but internals– where need to aim
- **Key – in such a culture as ours – all about appearances.**
 - Have millions of beautiful shallow people
- Speak specifically to ladies – **1 Pet 3:3-4** 📖
- Apply to all – men – those seeking ministry
- Focus on heart...character....obedience
 - Little things...lead to big things

Gospel

What is true of David...True of Christ

- World rejected David...reject Christ
- God chose David...Christ
- Anointed...really what Christ means
- Follow world, miss Christ. Folly...call to Him
 - He will meet you, work in you - real