

Where's the Donkey?
September 14, 2008
1Sam 9:15-21
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Synopsis:

This is election season. God calls us to choose who will lead us into the future. It's an important responsibility.

More important than our choice, though, is God's choice. From the story of Samuel and Saul, we learn that God *sees* us, *hears* our cries, and *chooses* leaders through human agency, giving them his Spirit to accomplish their task.

Last week I spoke about the positive and the negative aspects of leadership. Today we focus upon the *positive* aspects of leadership. There's plenty of time to dwell on negative aspects in the future.

Here's what's involved in *positive biblical leadership*: 4 elements

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|-----------------|----------|
| 1. Leaders | = Saul |
| 2. Vision | = Seeing |
| 3. Human agency | = Samuel |
| 4. Charisma | = Spirit |

I.

Saul

1Sam 9:2 He had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome man

What is a *leader's* role in leadership? LEADER

What does Saul do? Story goes from 9:1-10:16

The story: Kish loses his donkeys (9:1-3)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| -son <i>looking</i> for his Dad's donkeys | = responsible |
| -good <i>looking</i> son: tall and handsome | = gifted |
| -not <i>looking</i> for leadership, but donkeys | = humble (21) |

Notice the following about leaders:

Word for leader = 9:16 *nagid* = one in front

Go about your business, be responsible

Some of you are handsome (gifts)

Don't get attracted to yourself (humility)

Principles:

Up-front person

Responsible

Gifted

Humble

*God starts with these characteristics = look for them this fall

*God picks Saul, not vice-versa

-Seems to be the case biblically, God chooses people

-The best leaders are thrust into leadership

II.

Seeing

1Sam 9:16 For I have seen my people

What is *God's role* in choosing leaders? VISION

Who *sees* in this text? Key word in the passage is *see*

LORD = *sees* people and their need (9:16)

Samuel = *seer*, man of God, prophet (9:8-10, 17-19)

*The LORD sees what's going on and responds = Pray

*We see what God sees = be a man/woman of God, seer, prophet

-Read about the election, listen, absorb

-Watch for the presence of God, look for him

-Pray for wisdom and insight

III.

Samuel

1Sam 9:19 Samuel answered Saul, “I am a seer.”

What is *our role* in choosing leaders? HUMAN AGENCY

What does Samuel do?

- after he sees, he *acts* (9:19, 22, 26; 10:1)
- talks to Saul
- brings Saul into his house for hospitality
- calls him to get up
- anoints
- instructs him

*After you pray and see; then vote, act, get involved
Register, go to the polls, and be a part of the process
E.g. my son, (didn't make it to the polls)

IV.

Spirit

1Sam 10:6 Then the Spirit of the LORD will possess you

What do *leaders possess* from God? CHARISMA

What does the Spirit do?

Look at 10:6-7 and 10:10-11

- comes upon, fills a person to lead = charisma (gift GK)
- same as in rest of Scripture:
 - Spirit brings life of God (Gen 1)
 - Spirit falls upon a leader (Isa 61)
 - Spirit overcomes Mary in Jesus' birth (Matt 1)
 - Spirit comes upon Jesus at baptism (Matt 3)
 - Spirit comes upon Jesus at Nazareth (Isa 61)
 - Spirit of God directs leaders (Rom 13, 1Peter 2)

*Leaders and we are ultimately accountable to the *Spirit of God*

- Saul is accountable = leaders can fail or succeed
- God is accountable = sees, directs, gifts, inspires
- Samuel is accountable = listen, participate, act

*No such thing as secular leadership:

- All authority is from God (Rom 13)
- No separation of church and state
- All claims arise from a world view/ultimate commitment

*Don't abandon the election choice.

* It is a spiritual action in which we get to participate.