

“At that time the Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them. You will be changed into a different person. After these signs take place, do what must be done, for God is with you.” 1 Samuel 10:6-7 NLT

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He was a completely different person, for a time. He prophesied, and was mocked (1 Sam 10:10-12). Right after he was chosen as king, there were hecklers (1 Sam 10:27) and even later in life, songs were made up to compare him to David (1 Sam 18:7). And while the leaders were deciding who would be Israel's first king, he hid. When the lot fell to Saul, they found him hiding among the luggage. Saul was chosen by God, but God also knew who Saul would become. He didn't remain a shy, timid leader either. He turned into a mad king - power had not only turned him against God, it brought out the worst of his fears and reluctance to go on to live a tormented life in his own mind and in the kingdom as well. One small point of comfort when Saul made his journey to lead. “When Saul returned to his home at Gibeah, a group of men whose hearts God had touched went with him.” This IS what every leader needs and looks for to accomplish great things together.

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Dad,

Another story/picture of a reluctant leader. And, I read it, the role was placed upon him. He didn't seem particularly looking for it or any specific direction in his life. He was 30 and didn't appear to be ready for life or leadership at all. Oh, what a sad story and legacy he left behind. I see the cracks of character very early in his story and I ask, “Why God?” It felt like he fought his internal, interpersonal doubts even more than his external enemies. How can you receive glory through our ragged personality traits that haunt us?

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rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root