

“Now the Lord said to Samuel, “You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king.” 1 Samuel 16:1 NLT

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There's a time to mourn. Then there's a time to pickup, stop mopping and get with a new plan. This is as much about moving on after failure in leadership as it is trusting in God's plan. For goodness sake, even God was sad about Saul's character failure, “Samuel never went to meet with Saul again, but he mourned constantly for him. And the Lord was sorry he had ever made Saul king of Israel.” This is how the last sentence reads before God says move in. God knew Saul wouldn't be able to go from tall-white-and-handsome to obedience under pressure. Saul was an extreme introvert, who didn't want any of the spotlight, fame or pressure... until he tasted it! He went from a happy go lucky wealthy boy to a king, then a warrior. Where was the character development stages? David had a lot more time for discovering himself, his talents and his God out in the fields with sheep. And, even that level of training failed when it came to women and power. God looked at Saul's heart and knew it was conflicted, he looked at David's and knew it was honest but arrogant. What was different in these young men? What was different in their character, their leadership? God saw the frailties and failures and still chose both of them! At the transfer of power after David, I don't remember God saying, “I have rejected him as king.” Why?

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Dad,

Surprisingly enough, we've had thousands of leaders, some kings, some monarchs, some presidents of countries and world power. And you know each one of their hearts, their character. Some of them, you didn't “choose,” but allowed to run with power, that's always going to be hard from a human, time-locked perspective. However, it still intrigues me that you choose to find us and work with our frailties and bent behaviors at all! Such a mystery, such a risk from our point of view. You risked loving us as well. You risked letting us run the planet! And allowed a creepy villain to roam around the planet, actively thwarting, challenging your plans. Do any of us really understand why? Oh, it's a great story for sure. And has a mostly happy ending for those who know you as the author too. But wow! It's quite a ride on this humanity-coaster.

contemplatio

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