

DAVID THE LEADER

Because someone is appointed a leader, doesn't mean that they are leader. In the same way, just because someone is called the leader, doesn't mean they are the leader either. David was a leader before he was appointed by the people to be their leader.

1. Why was David's leadership so blessed? (First Samuel 18:13-14)

2. What was the response of the existing leader when God started to bless David's leadership ability? (1Samuel 18:15) Why?

3. What was Israel's response to David during this time and why? (1Samuel 18:16)

4. How does 1Chronicles 12:18 highlight the difference in the approach to leadership between David and the previous king, Saul?

When King Saul was threatened by David to the point that he was determined to kill David, his own leadership was weakened terribly. King Saul was no longer trusting God. He had become proud and self-assured.

5. According to 1Samuel 15:17 (NKJV), when did Saul receive his anointing from God, and what does this tell us about the attitude that God expects from His leaders?

David didn't wait to be appointed a leader by people. He simply was a leader. Israel loved David because he led them (1Sam. 18:16) even before he was officially appointed their king. When escaping for his life and forced to live as an exile, David's leadership anointing caused him to draw others around him.

6. Note the kinds of people that David gathered to himself while he was hiding from Saul in the cave of Adullam (1Sam. 22:1-2).
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David's anointing to be the king and leader of Israel was obvious well before he was formally appointed. From the time he slew Goliath, the Philistines knew that David would one day be king (note First Samuel 21:11), and so did King Saul (1Sam. 24:20).

7. How does 1Chronicles 11:1-2 show that David's leadership was universally recognised and operating even before he was formally appointed as king?
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David's leadership is a great example and illustration of not looking to people for approval. He didn't wait for people to appoint him to a ministry position; he just simply got on with it. He looked to the Lord to establish his leadership, not people. King Saul's downfall was his fear of people, and trying to please the crowd. But not so with David. He didn't care what people thought of him, he was simply trying to please God.

8. While King Saul was insecure and frantic about trying to firm up his own authority as leader, how did David feel about his grip on power according Second Samuel 5:12?
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Whatever your gift, you don't necessarily need the approval or appointment of others to use it if God has anointed and called you to use it. May we draw the same sense of security in our gifting and ministry as David did.

Amen.