



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Mantles – Part 3
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Main Idea – The mantles of prophet and king are available to you for the benefit of your own family. As prophet, you are responsible for the correct expression of God's word – as an encouragement and guide – to those who hear you. As king of your household, you are responsible for the practical application of that word.

Mantles are part of legacy

- There are legacies from those who came before us that were passed down to us.
- Likewise, by faith, recognize you are providing a foundation for those who will follow you.
- You must live in the present, but also must take care of the mantle that will be passed on.
- Samuel is an Old Testament character who simultaneously held - and functioned with the anointing of - different mantles.
- Samuel served God's purposes by performing the roles of priest and prophet for Israel, and by being the individual through whom God would anoint the first kings of Israel.
- **1 Samuel 10: 17-19 – Samuel summoned the people of Israel to the Lord at Mizpah and said to them, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says :‘I brought Israel up out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the power of Egypt and all the kingdoms that oppressed you.’ But you have now rejected your God, who saves you out of all your disasters and calamities. And you have said, ‘No, appoint a king over us.’ So now present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and clans.” (NIV)**
- God used Samuel to physically anoint the mantle of kingship for His people.
1 Samuel 10: 24 – Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see the man the Lord has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people.” Then the people shouted, “Long live the king!” (NIV)

The mantle of prophet

- The prophet's primary responsibility is to communicate God's word to people, and to identify the anointing that is potentially available for them.
- By accurately and appropriately using God's Word, prophets proclaim what can be, what should be, and what needs correction.
- Prophets are accountable to God's voice, His will, and His way.

- Prophets are God's voice to culture.
- Prophets demonstrate that God is faithful to His promises even when things are not going well. Prophets are an encouragement to those who hear.
- **Lamentations 3:22–24 – Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!" (NKJV)**
- Today, you have the potential to prophesy God's word to others as an encouragement. Prophecy is an anointed, scriptural, declaration.

Three keys to being a prophet

- Say what God says.
- Create culture through communication.
 - People often unknowingly adopt harmful things of the external, secular culture.
 - Prophets are used by God to refocus on what is important in Kingdom culture.
- Appoint whom God anoints.
 - This is a "parental" function that reinforces what God has favored and chosen in the next generation.

The mantle of kingship

- In Old Testament times, kings were the symbols of supreme earthly leadership.
- When prophets and kings functioned in harmony with each other the prophets expressed God's will, and the kings obediently acted on those messages.
- However, kings would inevitably act on their own account and would thereby become disobedient to God.
- One example of kingly disobedience is when King Saul attempted to gather wealth for himself contrary to God's directions. When confronted by the prophet Samuel, Saul attempted to rationalize his disobedience. Therefore, God took away his mantle of kingship. **1 Samuel 15: 22-23 – But Samuel replied: "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king." (NIV)**
- Part of Saul's weakness was he desired other people's approval more than being obedient to God. Saul failed because he did not have a genuine, personal relationship with God.

Kingship requires a proper heart

- As Saul failed as king, God chose David as his successor. David was not as impressive looking as Saul, but had the proper internal motivations.
1 Samuel 16:7 – But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (NIV)
- Effective kingship is dependent on qualities we might not see by our own observation. God knows and sees things we may not recognize.
- Effective kingship respects what God is doing in the bigger picture of things. When Samuel died, the younger prophet Nathan replaced him. King David respected this transfer of the prophetic mantle to the next generation.
- As king of your household, recognize and respect the gradual transfer of your mantles. That obedience will be a blessing to those who follow.
Proverbs 22:1- A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

Four keys to being a king

- Represent the (Kingdom) culture.
- Protect that culture.
- Provide for the culture.
- Remind the people of that culture.
 - Evangelize.
 - Serve alongside others on a team of that culture.
 - Place the Kingdom culture’s way of life above your own, personal benefit.

Reflective Questions for Mantles, Part 3

1. As a prophet, it is essential you remain faithful to God’s word even though you may suffer negative feedback from others (see Lamentations 3:22-24 above.). Do you know of someone who remained faithful to God even when s/he was being persecuted? Do you have what it takes to remain faithful during adversity?
2. The Old Testament prophets had challenging jobs. As best you can, put yourself in Samuel’s position. What internal battles do you imagine he faced during all the events of Saul’s reign as king? (Saul was king for 40 years – see Acts 13:21.)

3. It is said that King David was a man after God's own heart (see 1 Samuel 13:14 and Acts 13:22.) Are there hints in those verses what it means to be a person "after God's own heart"?
4. Are you currently serving alongside others on a team that is part of Kingdom culture? If so, which team? What is its role in our Kingdom's culture?