

## Neither Useless Nor Unfruitful

God's Man / God's Woman / God's Servants – Lesson 1

### Key Decisions Coming

---

- 1 1 Samuel 16:1 – *Now the Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have selected a king for Myself among his sons."*

### Key Decisions Coming

---

- 2 1 Samuel 16:3 – *"You shall invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for Me the one whom I designate to you."*
  - God knows who is the right man
  - God pledges to give guidance to Samuel.

### Key Decisions Coming

---

- 3 1 Samuel 16:6 – *When they entered, he looked at Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is before Him.”*
- Samuel has allowed us to hear his thinking.
  - Eliab looks like a perfect candidate to be Israel’s next king! (aka, “King Next!”)

### Key Decisions Coming

---

- 4 1 Samuel 16:7 – *But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”*

### Key Decisions Coming

---

- Eliab = no; Abinadab = no; Shammah = no; 4 more = no!
- David, son #8, was the right one.
- God provided clear and explicit guidance that allowed Samuel to identify God’s choice for Israel’s next king.

### Key Decisions Coming

---

- We will soon face a similar decision. Who is God’s choice as our next Pastor?
- Wouldn’t it be great to have a prophetic hotline to God (like what Samuel had)?
- God has done us one better by providing a profile that specifies what He seeks!

## Key Decisions Coming

---

- In the books of 1 Timothy (chapter 3) and Titus (chapter 1), we have been given a comprehensive list of what God says we need in our next Pastor.
- These are God's non-negotiables – No matter what else he brings to the table!

## Introduction

---

- 5 1 Timothy 3:1–2 – *It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of **overseer**, it is a fine work he desires to do. An **overseer**, then, must be...*
- Then follows a list of numerous virtues & vices (must be / must not be)

## Introduction

---

- 6 Titus 1:5 – *For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint **elders** in every city as I directed you.*
- List follows: 5 = the same terms, several = similar concept as in 1 Timothy list.

## Introduction

---

- Did you notice? The Timothy list is about "overseers;" Titus concerns "elders."
- What does this have to do with a "pastor?"
- And how do we know these lists don't concern two different individuals, overseers and elders.

## Introduction

---

- 7 Acts 20:17 – *From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the **elders** of the church.*
- Paul is on his way to Jerusalem. But he wants to encourage the elders of the church in Ephesus, a church he planted about 5 years earlier. Rendezvous in Miletus.

## Introduction

---

- 8 Acts 20:28 – *Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to **shepherd** the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

## Introduction

---

- Paul is using the titles, elder and overseer, interchangeably. Same person.
- So 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 lists are relevant to same person.
- The verb “shepherd” is used of both, too.

## Introduction

---

- This verb comes from noun that is translated “pastor” in Eph. 4:11.
- 9 • So a “pastor” = a “shepherd” = an “elder” = an “overseer.”
- These terms all connect to the same person.

## Introduction

---

- They might emphasize something different, but all connect to one person.
- So, here's a double benefit: You can use the 1 Tim. 3 / Titus 1 lists for evaluating our next Pastor AND possible elders!

## So Pay Attention

---

- These lists in 1 Tim. 3 / Titus 1 tell you what God expects of those who serve as elders at First Evan.
- These lists also tell you what we should be looking for (according to God) in our next pastor.

## 10 How to Apply – Four Possibilities

---

- So before we examine these specific terms, let's determine how they should be applied.
- There are four possibilities:
  1. Absolute standard – how is this helpful?

## How to Apply – Four Possibilities

---

2. Antiquated Profile – a successful church needs pastors and elders who bring other qualities to the table.
3. Aspiration – merely good intentions. "I am quick-tempered, but I try not to be."

## How to Apply – Four Possibilities

---

4. Present Necessity – this view fits with grammar and theology of transformation.
  - Each of these terms or phrases describe who someone is.

## "Must Be"

---

- 11 1 Timothy 3:2 – *An overseer, then, **must be** above reproach...*
- 11 Titus 1:7 – *For the overseer **must be** above reproach as God's steward...*
  - "must" = necessity; "be" = a present infinitive. This ≠ "must have been"

## The Power of Transformation

---

- 12 1 Corinthians 6:9–11 – *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers,*

## The Power of Transformation

---

- 12 *...will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*
  - This is profoundly encouraging!

## The Power of Transformation

---

- We need not be defined by our past!
- “Adulterer,” “thief,” or “swindler” may have described who certain Corinthians **were**.
- But those terms no longer describe who they **are**.

## The Power of Transformation

---

- They have been transformed and become someone new. God can do this!
- This is what Paul says we should look for in pastors/shepherds/elders/overseers.
- It is no stretch to use each of these terms to describe who a man truly is.

## The Power of Transformation

---

- Transformation is not just relevant to pastors and elders.
- If you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, transformation is something He wants you to pursue!
- Here are 7 key principles for all believers.

## 1 - No one is saved by works.

---

- 13 2 Timothy 1:9 – *who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, **not according to our works**, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.*

## 2 - Works are the evidence of salvation.

---

- 14 1 John 2:3-8 – *By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.*

## 3 - Doing what is right promotes our good.

---

- 15 Jeremiah 5:25 – *"Your iniquities have turned these away, And your sins have withheld good from you."*

## 4 - God supplies what we lack.

---

- 16 Philippians 2:12–13 – *So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*

## 5 – We have a part to play.

---

- 17 2 Timothy 2:15 – *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.*



### 5 – We have a part to play.

---

18 Hebrews 3:13 – *But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*

### 6 – Transformation involves time well used.

---

19 Hebrews 5:12 – *For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.*

### 7 – Transformation produces fruit.

---

20 2 Peter 1:5–8 – *Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness,*

### 7 – Transformation produces fruit.

---

20 *and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

## Transformation For All

---

- If you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, transformation is something He wants you to pursue!
- Pastors and elders should be examples of what we all strive for. Someone you can ask, "How do you become \_\_\_\_?"

## SATO Recall

---

21 1 John 3:2 – *Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.*

Go as far as you can, then Jesus will step in.

## Neither Useless Nor Unfruitful

God's Man / God's Woman / God's Servants – Lesson 1