

4/12/15 Sermon Notes and Journal Page

1 - Look for what is: 1 Samuel 16:1<sup>a</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

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Isaiah 43:15-19: \_\_\_\_\_

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2 - Don't be afraid of offending the past: 1 Samuel 16:1<sup>b</sup>-2 \_\_\_\_\_

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1 Corinthians:9:19-22: \_\_\_\_\_

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3 - God values small beginnings: 1 Samuel 16:10-12 \_\_\_\_\_

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Luke 16:10 \_\_\_\_\_

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1 - "Glory Days": We all have a past. A history of accomplishments, failures, and those times when things were comfortably in the middle. The question for each of us is how that past will affect our daily lives. For some, our past is the fuel we use to give us the confidence to work hard today. For others the past is a trap. Holding them in a cycle of defeat that their mind wont allow them escape from. In the church the past has the same power. It can propel us into new works of Gods grace, or it can trap us in a cycle of what used to be. Take a few minutes to consider your past: the good, bad, and ugly. How do you think your personal past effects you as an individual, and how does your past experience wit the church effect you as a member of the body of Christ? Be honest with yourself and write it out, then read it to yourself. Sometimes we have to hear something spoken before we actually believe its true.\_\_\_\_\_

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2 - Sacred Cows / offending the past: Make a list of your favorite things about church. Now ask yourself what would happen if these things were stopped, or changed. How would you feel, what would you do? Why were they so important, and are they more important than the relationships you have with other people in the church?\_\_\_\_\_

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3 - Small beginnings: This may seem be a little aggressive, if so I sort-of apologize...:0) Let me ask you a direct question. What are you doing to help the church spread the message of the gospel? Now, when you answer this there are a few things that do not count: going to church, tithing & raising Godly children are not answers. We should all be part of a faith community, tithing is a command, and wouldn't any believer want Godly children. What I am asking is what do you do in cooperation with other members of Christ body, for the benefit of growing that body. Are you an intercessor, so you take short term missions trips, do you prepare meals for the sick, lead a bible study, help in the nursery, etc. Spend a few moments considering this. You may find that you do more than you think, or maybe less than you should. If you fall into the less than you should category, whats the hold-up? If its time: how do you plan to make time? If its a lack of ability or understanding: what are you doing to gain knowledge or experience? If its that you are waiting for something "worth your time": define what you believe is worth your time, then show that definition to someone else who is willing to be honest, and whose opinion you trust.\_\_\_\_\_

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