

STUDY #2 IN THE LIFE OF KING SAUL

I Samuel 10:1-27

TEXT:

- v. 1 Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, "Has not the Lord anointed you leader over his inheritance?"
- v. 2 When you leave me today, you will meet two men near Rachel's tomb, at Zelzah on the border of Benjamin. They will say to you, 'The donkeys you set out to look for have been found. And now your father has stopped thinking about them and is worried about you. He is asking, "What shall I do about my son?"'
- v. 3 "Then you will go on from there until you reach the great tree of Tabor. Three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there. One will be carrying three young goats, another three loaves of bread, and another a skin of wine.
- v. 4 They will greet you and offer you two loaves of bread, which you will accept from them.
- v. 5 "After that you will go to Gibeah of God, where there is a Philistine outpost. As you approach the town, you will meet a procession of prophets coming down from the high place with lyres, tambourines, flutes and harps being played before them, and they will be prophesying.
- v. 6 The Spirit of the Lord will come upon you in power, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person.
- v. 7 Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you.
- v. 8 "Go down ahead of me to Gilgal. I will surely come down to you to sacrifice burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, but you must wait seven days until I come to you and tell you what you are to do."
- v. 9 As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul's heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day.
- v. 10 When they arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he joined in their prophesying.
- v. 11 When all those who had formerly known him saw him prophesying with the prophets, they asked each other, "What is this that has happened to the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?"
- v. 12 A man who lived there answered, "And who is their father?" So it became a saying: "Is Saul also among the prophets?"
- v. 13 After Saul stopped prophesying, he went to the high place.
- v. 14 Now Saul's uncle asked him and his servant, "Where have you been?" "Looking for the donkeys," he said. "But when we saw they were not to be found, we went to Samuel."
- v. 15 Saul's uncle said, "Tell me what Samuel said to you."

Bird trapped in the Gym - Flew + Flew + Flew - Ceiling + Four walls. Flew low in exhaustion + found the door. Down isn't so bad when it gets you looking up. Narrow is the gate + few there are who find.

v.16 Saul replied, "He assured us that the donkeys had been found." But he did not tell his uncle what Samuel had said about the kingship.

v.17 v.18 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 calamities and distresses. And you have said, 'No, set a king over us.' So now present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and clans."

v.19 When Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen.

v.20 v.21 Then he brought forward the tribe of Benjamin, clan by clan, and Matri's clan was chosen. Finally Saul son of Kish was chosen. But when they looked for him, he was not to be found.

v.22 v.23 So they inquired further of the Lord, "Has the man come here yet?" And the Lord said, "Yes, he has hidden himself among the baggage." They ran and brought him out, and as he stood among the people he was a head taller than any of the other.

v.24 v.25 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!" Samuel explained to the people the regulations of the kingship. He wrote them down on a scroll and deposited it before the Lord. Then Samuel dismissed the people, each to his own home.

v.26 v.27 Saul also went to his home in Gibeah, accompanied by valiant men whose hearts God had touched. But some troublemakers said, "How can this fellow save us?" They despised him and brought him no gifts. But Saul kept silent.

Gold Fish
Swimming in
Little Circles

Long Beach
Sailing Vessel

3 ingredients
of Successful
Sp. Leadership

God doesn't
always do things
the way we want it

Death of
Samuel's
Visions + Plans.??

Humility
Account-
ability

Teach-
Ability

Saul is
Superficial
+ Self-Centered.

Ben Hogan

Golf - Golfer playing in big tournament.
Par 3 #13 Partner Hole in one. Other guy
<1. Shot with a hole in one. 1... 2... 3... 4... 5...

when are
really going
to break out
of that stuff
little houses
+ go for
it.
Spiritual
Guidance
on their course
Provide every
ONE
The SORRY
OF RICHES

Gave Himself
Everything
but God

Samuel did
Saul did

one of the biggest challenges in our lives
INTRODUCTION: is to submit to the Father's leading when we don't understand what He is doing.

In our last episode together we saw Samuel and Saul meet one another for the first time, and through the encounter to have Samuel, against his own personal desires and wishes, be obedient to God's message and share with Saul the future that was going to be in store for him.

As our story now opens, Saul and Samuel have walked together to the edge of town, the servant has gone on ahead, and Samuel has announced that he has a message that he wants to give to Saul from God.

v. 1 Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, "Has not the Lord anointed you leader over his inheritance?"

Real Servant:

- ① delights to give
- ② humble enough to receive

Racquetball

losing - serious, Few words, Intense, Angry
opponent makes a great shot - Silence, **Lucky!!**
winning - Laughter, Great shot, Happiness, Appreciation

*Entering into office
Not for power
Prestige but
privilege of being
a servant*

Blaikie points out "Everything was planned to impress on Saul that his elevation to the royal dignity was not to be viewed by him as a mere piece of good fortune and to induce him to enter in on the office with a solemn sense of responsibility and in a spirit entirely different from that of the neighboring kings, who thought only of their royal position as enabling them to gratify the desires of their own hearts."

*Anointing
Affection
Announcement*

Samuel performs this act of anointing Saul with oil in private because it is not the time for others to know of it, for it would have seemed to have been interfering with the choice of the people.

After he has poured the oil on Saul's head, he kisses him, which is an act of homage and affection. He then makes the following statement: "Has not the Lord anointed you leader over his inheritance?"

*Apple of my eye
Light of my life
Pain of my neck*

This is a new beginning. The Lord, through this act of Samuel, has anointed Saul leader over his inheritance. They are the apple of his eye. They are his chosen people.

Story of the little boat: I made you + I bought you

Deuteronomy 4:20 "But as for you, the Lord took you and brought you out of the iron-smelting furnace, out of Egypt, to be the people of his inheritance, as you now are."

*We belong to Him twice
We are what v. 2
He has to look forward to!!*

Deuteronomy 9:26 "I prayed to the Lord and said, 'Oh sovereign Lord, do not destroy your people, your own inheritance, that you redeemed by your great power and brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand.'"

*We belong to Him twice
We are what v. 2
He has to look forward to!!*

I Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

*We belong to Him twice
We are what v. 2
He has to look forward to!!*

When you leave me today, you will meet two men near Rachel's tomb, at Zelzah on the border of Benjamin. They will say to you, 'The donkeys you set out to look for have been found. And now your father has stopped thinking about them and is worried about you. He is asking, "What shall I do about my son?"'

*We belong to Him twice
We are what v. 2
He has to look forward to!!*

Saul certainly needs tangible proof of the anointing as king being the expressed will of God. And it is these proofs that Samuel gives in the prediction of certain events that are going to happen for Saul as he begins his journey homeward.

H The first proof that he will have is that he will meet two men near Rachel's tomb, and they will say to you "The donkeys you set out to look for have been found. And now your father has stopped thinking about them and is worried about you. He is asking, 'What shall I do about my son?'"

McGee points out "As far as Kish is concerned, his son Saul is lost, but Saul is engaged in serious business. Samuel has anointed him king near the tomb of Rachel, which is in the territory of Benjamin near Bethlehem." where Benjamin was born!

3 signs
Dlitzsch points out "To confirm the consecration of Saul as king over Israel, which had been effected through the anointing. Samuel gave him three more signs which would occur on his journey home, and would be a pledge to him that Jehovah would accompany his undertakings with his divine help and practically accredit him as his anointed. These signs, therefore, stand in the closest relation to the calling conveyed to Saul through his anointing.

v. 3 "Then you will go on from there until you reach the great tree of Tabor. Three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there. One will be carrying three young goats, another three loaves of bread, and another a skin of wine."

II
The second token or sign to be found in the Plain of Tabor. Here there will be these three men who are going up to Bethel to meet with the Lord.

v. 4 "They will greet you and offer you two loaves of bread, which you will accept from them."

The meaning of this double sign consisted in the fact that these men gave Saul two loaves from their sacrificial offering. In this he was to discern an homage paid to the anointed of the Lord, and he was therefore to accept the gift in this sense at their hand.

v. 5 After that you will go to Gibeah of God, where there is a Philistine outpost. As you approach the town, you will meet a procession of prophets coming down from the high place with lyres, tambourines, flutes and harps being played before them, and they will be prophesying.

III
This is the third sign that will verify the act of Samuel in anointing him as king in verse 1. This is what he will see on his way home.

v. 6 The Spirit of the Lord will come upon you in power, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person.

Here we have the third sign as Saul approaches home. This is very apparent from the fact that, according to verse 10, all the people of Gibeah had known Saul of old and therefore could not comprehend how he had all at once come to be among the prophets.

Dlitzsch points out "This transformation is not to be regarded, indeed, as regeneration in the Christian sense, but as a change resembling regeneration, which affected the entire disposition of mind, and by which Saul was lifted out of his former modes of thought and feeling, which were confined within a narrow, earthly sphere into the far higher sphere of his new royal calling, was filled with kingly thoughts in relation to the service of God and received another heart. Heart is used in the ordinary scriptural sense as the center of the whole mental and psychical life of will, desire, thought, perception and feeling. Through this sign, his anointing as king was to be inwardly sealed."

J. Vernon McGee points out "Here again we have a question: Was Saul converted? Is this verse a proof of his conversion? Certainly it is not a final proof. I do not believe he was converted. If I sound like I am prejudiced against Saul, I will tell you why. It is not because of the material we have already covered concerning him, but what is coming that makes me believe that Saul was not genuine, and certainly not genuinely converted at all. Someone is bound to say, But the Spirit of God came upon Saul and he was a different man. Yes, but it does not say that he became a new man. After all, didn't the Spirit of God come upon Baalam and we have no proof that he was converted. What about Judas? Christ sent out 12 disciples and we are told that all of them performed miracles. Did Judas perform miracles? Certainly he did. Would you say that Judas was converted? So let us withhold making a final decision about Saul, although I seem to have already made one."

Stephen Breedlove in his thesis The Spiritual and Psychological Failure of Saul points out "Any one of these evidences would not alone confirm Saul's salvation. But their cumulative weight indicates that he was a believer. He became a new man with a new heart through the direction of the Holy Spirit and through his personal faith in God. And the changes wrought in his heart were immediately visible to his old friends. The initial notes of his subsequent life indicated that he was controlled by God's spirit and that he performed God's will in mighty power. He also exemplified the mercy and love characteristic of redeemed man. Finally, Samuel, dead in Paradise, states to the king, Tomorrow you will be with me. Altogether, these observations point to the fact that Saul was a regenerated individual. This fact is essential to the proper interpretation of the events surrounding Saul's spiritual and mental failure. But even more essentially, it affects the

application of these interpreted truths. It settles once for all the fundamental liberal inference that Saul was the helpless victim of circumstances, caught in a cycle, with no alternatives but the sinful course of action he took. Saul was not a helpless pawn in God's hand, but he was a regenerated man who had a responsible choice before. He chose the unrighteous path and he suffered the consequences.

→ Paul the Apostle.

Blaikie points out "The real test is a changed will. A will no longer demanding that self be pleased, but that God be pleased. A will yielding up everything to the will of God; a will continually asking what is right and what is true, not what will please me or what will be a gain to me; a will overpowered by the sense of what is due in nature to the Lord and judge of all, and what is due in grace to him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood. Have you thus surrendered yourselves to God? At the heart and root of your nature is there the profound desire to do what is well-pleasing in his sight? If so, then even amid abounding infirmities, you may hold that you are the child of God. But if still the principle, silent perhaps and unavowed, but real, that moves you and regulates your life be that of self-pleasing, any change that may have occurred otherwise must have sprung only from outward conditions and the prayer needs to go out from you on the wings of irrepressible desire: 'Create in me a clean heart, Oh God, and renew a right spirit within me.'"

Did you
rise this
Morning
Please You
OR the Lord

Big Question
Are You Saved
Matt. 6:33

* Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and you shall be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

* John 3:7 "Marvel not that I say unto you, you must be born again."

* 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation. All things are passed away, behold, all things are become new."

* John 1:12 "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."

v. 7 Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you.

After outlining these three signs that he is going to encounter on his way home, Samuel gives the command to do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you.

- ① Opportunity is before you!
- ② Everything you need!
- ③ God is with you...

"Ready for Any Thing!!"

IF your
heart is
right + your
will Surrender
You can do
what your hand
finds to do!!

Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men."

Delitzsch points out "The occurrence of the signs mentioned was to assure him of the certainty that God would assist him in all that he undertook as king."

John 9:4 "I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day, for the night is coming when no man can work."

John 4:34,35 "Say not ye, There are yet four months and then cometh harvest. Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes and look on the fields. They are white already to harvest. And he that reappeth receiveth wages and gathereth fruit unto life eternal."

v. 8 "Go down ahead of me to Gilgal. I will surely come down to you to sacrifice burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, but you must wait seven days until I come to you and tell you what you are to do."

Humility - Accountability - Teachability

Now Saul has the first opportunity to be (submissive) and (obedient) to the message of the Lord spoken through Samuel.

Samuel emphasizes the fact "you must wait seven days until I come to you and tell you what you are to do."

v. 9 As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul's heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day.

Just as the Lord had promised and spoken through his prophet, so these three signs that have been outlined in the previous verses were fulfilled that day as Saul returned home.

McGee points out "When Saul left Samuel, I think Samuel watched him walk away and said, 'My, he is a fine fellow!' But even a prophet can be wrong. The prophet Nathan was wrong when he told David to build God a house. God had to intervene and Nathan had to correct himself. Samuel was wrong about Saul. As he looked at this young man, Saul, he saw a big, husky, fine-looking fellow. My, he would have been able to play in the line of any professional football team, but he was not king at all."

Delitzsch points out "God changed to him another heart. This is a pregnant expression for God changed him and gave him another heart."

v. 10 When they arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he joined in their prophesying.

Even Placed within him
That desire to do His
bidding . . .

Authority
Problem !!
1

Sie Sampson
O. Juan &
for their
money !!

Pro Ball
Player

Hope the
Mavericks

Pick him
up on
Wavers

The other two signs are omitted in the account because the third is probably the most significant. And as he arrives home, the things happen just exactly the way Samuel said they would.

v.11 When all those who had formerly known him saw him prophesying with the prophets, they asked each other, "What is this that has happened to the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?"

McGee points out "The Spirit of God came upon Saul and he prophesied. Everyone who had known him before knew that something had happened to him. They asked, 'Is Saul also among the prophets?' God is giving Saul an opportunity. God never withheld anything from him and yet he failed."

Saul w/
the saints
Saul in church

There are two questions in this verse that are important for us to think about:

1. "What is this that has happened to the son of Kish?"

Evidently, Saul's earlier life manifested a careless, indifferent, blaise attitude toward God, and that he was living for the most part for those things which are temporary and material.

Rich Kid
Drugs
Drinking
Din K'in

This expression presupposes that Saul's previous life was altogether different from that of the disciples of the prophets. They then raised the second question:

Did Saul go to Seminary

2. "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

This is kind of like going to church on Sunday morning and seeing some fellow who for years has epitomized the godless way of life singing in the choir.

Seeing An Old Classmate in bible Study
Without Him You Really Aren't happy!!
Eating Cotton Candy *
Chasing Pretty Rainbows
Association without Acceptance

John Newton was just such a fellow; who out of such depths of sin and degradation, came to a marvelous conversion and then wrote about it in that great hymn:

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, and now I see."

B.J. Thomas; what a difference you made in my life!!
Parable of Rich Fool! Lu. 12:13-20

v.12 A man who lived there answered, "And who is their father?" So it became a saying: "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

The question "Who is their father?" forms a very appropriate answer to the expression of surprise and the inquiry how it came to pass that Saul was among the prophets. If those prophets had not obtained the gift of prophecy by inheritance, but as a free gift of the Lord, it was equally possible for the Lord to communicate the same gift to Saul.

Religion without Relationship

Judas Iscariot

It was from this statement then that the proverb arose, "Is Saul also among the prophets?" -- a proverb which was used to express astonishment at the appearance of any man in a sphere of life which had hitherto been altogether strange to him.

v.13 After Saul stopped prophesying, he went to the high place.

After the experience with the prophets, Saul goes up to the high place, a place of worship.

One is reminded of the apostle Paul, as he speaks of his experiences in Galatians 1:13 - "For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it."

v.22-24 I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. They only heard the report, The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy, and they praised God because of me.

Acts 9:20-22 "At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked: Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on his name, and hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests? Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ."

I think Saul goes on to the high place to thank God for the mercies which he has bestowed upon him, and also to praise him for the privilege of leadership in the kingdom.

v.14 Now Saul's uncle asked him and his servant, "Where have you been?" "Looking for the donkeys," he said. "But when we saw they were not to be found, we went to Samuel."

One of Saul's relatives asks the question of Saul and the servant: "Where have you been?" Almost as though he is saying, "We've been looking high and low for you and have been worried to death about your welfare."

Don't think he really understood

Saul's answer represses all that has happened in the encounter with Samuel by responding with the words "Looking for the donkeys, and then when we saw they were not to be found, we went to Samuel."

v.15 Saul's uncle said, "Tell me what Samuel said to you."

Evidently, Saul's uncle had some experience with Samuel and knew who he was, and so he pursues the matter with still a further question.

Never the same again

Just Going Thru.
the motions.

why didn't
you call?

11:00 p.m.
saturday!!

v.16 Saul replied, "He assured us that the donkeys had been found." But he did not tell his uncle what Samuel has said about the kingship.

There are times to be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger, according to James 1:19. And Saul is using a great deal of discretion here in being silent about the matter of kingship.

This was an instance of his humility, of his prudence, for had he been forward to proclaim it, he would have been envied, and he knew not what difficulty that might have created for him.

*Joseph
Gen 37:
dreams*

In Genesis 37 Joseph does not use such discretion in telling his brothers of the dreams which he had. Their response is, in verse 8: "His brothers said to him, Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us? And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. Then he had another dream and he told it to his brothers, Listen, he said. I had another dream, and this time, the sun and moon and 11 stars were bowing down to me. And he told his father as well as his brothers. His father rebuked him and said, What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you? His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the thing in mind."

v.17 Samuel summoned the people of Israel to the Lord at Mizpah

After Samuel had secretly anointed Saul king by the command of God, it was his duty to make provision for a recognition of the man whom God had chosen on the part of the people also. To this end he summoned the people to Mizpah.

Blaikie points out "When first the desire to have a king came to a height with the people, they had the grace to go to Samuel and endeavor to arrange the matter through him. They did not, indeed, show much regard to his feelings. Rather, they showed a sort of childlike helplessness, not appearing to consider how much he would be hurt, both by their virtual rejection of his government and by their blunt reference to the unworthy behavior of his sons. But it was a good thing that they came to Samuel at all. They were not prepared to carry out their wishes by lawless violence. They were not desirous to make use of the usual Oriental methods of revolution with massacre and riot. It was so far well that they desired to avail themselves of the peaceful instrumentality of Samuel. We have seen how Samuel carried the matter to the Lord and how the Lord yielded so far to the wish of the nation as to permit them to have a king. And Samuel, having determined not to take offense, but to continue in friendly relations to the people and do his utmost to turn the change to the best possible account, now proceeds to superintend the business of election."

v.18 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.'

McGee points out "When the children of Israel ask for a king and took Saul, it meant they were turning their backs upon God. We need to note that their reception of Saul as king meant their rejection of God."

Ridout points out "The people are to come together at Mizpah, the place where God had signally manifested his delivering hand in rescueing them from the Philistines; and also one of the stations where Samuel was accustomed to judge Israel. It's name as we have seen means "watchtower." Appropriate surely for those who would rightly survey the past and the future and heed the admonitions with which God would address them. 'I will stand upon my watch and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me and what I shall answer when I am reproved.' (Habakkuk 2:1). Good would it have been for them and their king had this attitude of soul truly marked them. It was that indeed to which God called him, as he ever does his people. To hearken to the admonitions and reproofs of love, and thus to be guarded from the snares into which we will otherwise surely fall. Well would it have been for Peter had he been spiritually at Mizpah to receive the warning of our Lord."

II Chron. 7:14
The opening of the political convention is met with an address from the Lord. "I brought Israel up out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the power of Egypt and all the kingdoms that oppressed you."

The Lord has been the one who has been responsible for the marvelous victories that the people have enjoyed in the past.

**

v.19 But you have now rejected your God, who saves you out of all your calamities and distresses. And you have said, 'No, set a king over us.' So now present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and clans."

Saul is somehow reflecting the rebellion of the people in his life style
It is utterly and completely beyond human understanding how the people could get over a message like this from the Lord and still desire an earthly king.

Theirs is a defiant spirit and a stubborn heart, who must have their own way, and that involves being like everybody else. They want a king over them, an earthly monarch.

Product of his environment
John 3:36 "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son, will not see life. For God's wrath remains on him."

Psalm 14:1
Prov. 27:1
Heb. 10:31

Break The Rules of Life + Get Away with it ... Gal. 6:7

John 12:48 "There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words, that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day."

After this stern warning of what is about to happen, Samuel gives the command: "So now present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and clans."

Just like the political conventions organize themselves into states, so now Samuel tells the people to get themselves organized by tribes and by clans.

v.20 When Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen.

In the first selection, in choosing the tribe out of the 12 tribes, it is the tribe of Benjamin that is chosen.

v.21 Then he brought forward the tribe of Benjamin, clan by clan, and Matri's clan was chosen. Finally Saul son of Kish was chosen. But when they looked for him, he was not to be found.

Much of the process of choosing Saul the son of Kish is passed over in order to get to the result.

"But when they looked for him, he was not to be found."

McGee points out "When the time came for Samuel to introduce Saul to the crowd as their king, he could not find him. This great big fellow Saul acted just like a little child. He ran and hid, and they had to find him and bring him out. Again, in my judgment, this is an evidence of false modesty. The anointing oil had been poured upon him, and if he is given an opportunity to be king and serve God, then let him step out in the open and act like a king."

Ridout points out "The lot declares that Saul, the son of Kish, is the appointed man, but he is nowhere to be found. Fleshlike, he hides himself when he ought to be present, and obtrudes himself when he should be out of sight. Self-depreciation is a very different thing from true lowliness of spirit. As the poet says, Satan's darling sin is the pride which apes humility. He had already spoken to Samuel of his tribe being the smallest in Israel and his family the least in that tribe. All this had been overruled by the prophet who had anointed him. He had already received the assurance that he was the appointed king. God himself had spoken to him through the signs that we have been looking at and in the spirit of prophecy which had indeed also fallen upon himself. Why then this feigned modesty? This shrinking from the gaze of his subjects? Does it

Indication that Saul doesn't have His eyes on the Lord...

not indicate one who is not truly in the presence of God? For when, in His presence, man is rightly accounted of. The fear of man indicates the lack of the fear of God and brings a snare. In God's presence the lowliest can face the mightiest unflinchingly. Hear the faithful witnesses refusing to obey the command of King Nebuchadnezzar, there is no hiding there: "We are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace. But if not, be it known unto thee O king, that we will not serve thy gods nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." Faith in God produces true liberty in man."

Scared by the warning!!

No doubt Saul had already anticipated the consummation of this election because of all of the supernatural evidences that had come into effect prior to this to convince him of the outcome. He, being very frightened, begins to shrink back from the responsibility of the leadership of this great nation. I believe, too, he really was fearful after hearing the solemn warning from the Lord given by Samuel at the beginning of this convention.

v.22 So they inquired further of the Lord, "Has the man come here yet?" And the Lord said, "Yes, he has hidden himself among the baggage."

Because they were unable to locate their candidate, they turned to the Lord through the prophet's intervention and discovered that: first, *he was there at the convention*, and secondly *he had hidden himself among the baggage.*

This is all of *the gear and sleeping bags* that the people had brought with them, and they often piled it up as a rampart or defense, while the assembly was going on.

v.23 They ran and brought him out, and as he stood among the people, *he was a head taller than any of the other.*

Blaikie points out "We can fancy the scene, when the pile of baggage being indicated as the hiding place, the people searched to among it, knocking the contents asunder, very unceremoniously, until Saul was at length discovered. From his inglorious place of retreat the king was now brought out, looking no doubt *awkward and foolish*, yet with that commanding figure which seemed so suitable for his new dignity."

v.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!"

How strange and quick the transition! A minute ago he was safe in his hiding place, wondering whether someone else might not get the office. Now the shouts of the people indicate that all is settled.

King of Israel he hence forward is to be. The first words of encouragment were the shouts of the people, God Save the King!

McGee points out "And God save the people also! This was the first time this cry 'God save the King!' was uttered. As you know, it is still used in modern England."

v.25 Samuel explained to the people the regulations of the kingship, He wrote them down on a scroll and deposited it before the Lord. Then Samuel dismissed the people, each to his own home.

Delitzsch points out "It is the rite which regulated the attitude of the earthly monarchy in the theocracy and determined the duties and rights of the human king in relation to Jehovah, the divine King on the one hand, and to the nation on the other. This rite could only be laid down by a prophet like Samuel to raise a wholesome barrier at the very outset against all excesses on the part of the king. Samuel, therefore, wrote it in a document which was laid down before Jehovah, that is in the sanctuary of Jehovah; though certainly not in the sanctuary at Bamah and Gibeah. It was no doubt placed in the tabernacle where the law of Moses was also deposited by the side of the fundamental law of the divine state of Israel. When a business was all completed, Samuel sent the people away to their own homes."

v.26 Saul also went to his home in Gibeah, accompanied by valiant men whose hearts God had touched. God gave him everything he would need.

~~The new king now has a bodyguard and this group of men do it because they have been moved to do so, and have a desire to help in service.~~

~~Support Personnel~~
Blaikie points out "Here was a remarkable encouragement, a friend in need is a friend indeed. Could there have been any time when Saul was more in need of friends? How happy a thing it was that he did not need to go and search for them. They came to him with their willing service. And what a happy start it was for him in his new office that these helpers were at hand to serve him. A band of willing helpers around one takes off more than half the difficulty of a difficult enterprise. Men that enter into one's plans that sympathize with one's aims, that are ready to share one's burdens, that anticipate one's wishes are of priceless value in any business."

So easy
we start out
to look the part

v.27 But some troublemakers said, "How can this fellow save us?" They despised him and brought him no gifts. But Saul kept silent.

Along with the supporters, there were the troublemakers and their question is: "How can this fellow save us?" As a result of their opposition, they despised him and they didn't bring him any gifts. Saul's attitude toward this is not to take revenge, but Saul kept silent.

Saul would rather prove himself by action rather than by words. He would let it be seen when the opportunity offered itself whether he could render any service to the nation or not.

As we come to the conclusion of this section, is it not true that when the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ is faithfully presented, there are going to be those whose hearts are touched, and there are going to be those who resist, reject, oppose the message of the person of Christ.

CONCLUSION:

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this particular chapter?

Ridout points out "How everything in this whole history of the man after the flesh emphasizes the fact that nothing of nature can glory before God; how everything was designed, as it were, to call Saul to judge and to refuse himself, in order that having no confidence in himself, he might be spared the terrible experiences and fall which mark his later history. It would seem as though God himself were laboring to impress all these things upon the mind of the future king and to spare him, so far as divine mercy could intervene.

From the pride and self-righteousness which were the occasion of his final downfall and overthrow. May not we also need to learn well these lessons for our own souls, and have impressed more deeply upon us, as we grow more familiar with these facts, the necessity of having no confidence in the flesh."

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from these verses:

LESSON #1: God never violates our free will. He often grants our request, but sends leanness into our souls.

LESSON #2: There will be evidences in our pathway that the Lord is directing our steps.

LESSON #3: Have you been changed into a different person because you have come to know Jesus Christ by faith?

LESSON #4: Has anybody ever asked you the question: What has happened to you?

LESSON #5: Are you sensitive, submissive, and obedient to God's word, as far as you know?

LESSON #6: Has God touched your heart and rearranged your priorities?

Just as those disciples heard from Jesus to leave their nets and follow him because he was going to make them fishers of men, so they responded. Perhaps the Lord is speaking to you this very day, having touched your heart to put Him in first place. "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Oh, do not delay in responding. Speak Lord, for thy servant heareth.

The last thing to go in the pursuit of life Abundant is
Pride + SELF-SUFFICIENCY. it keeps us at a distance with
God because we always think we know what is best.

Keith Green
Dan Dehaan
Mike Ditka

So easy to go through
the motions...