

What You Need to Know About SAUL:

“The King with the Unsurrendered Will and the Unrepentant Heart”

Study Number Two – 1 Samuel 10:1-27

Saul is a man with everything going for him. He's grown up in a very wealthy home. But as we talked about in our last study, people who grow up in wealthy homes sometimes miss the one ingredient. Parents take care of the social part of the child, the educational part, the physical and mental parts, but they leave something to be gained in the spiritual.

It's kind of like they provide for everything but they're on their own in the spiritual because parents want them to be broadminded. They want them just to think all this through for themselves.

Saul grew up as the son of Kish of the tribe of Benjamin. He had everything he could ever want physically and monetarily. But as we learned in our last study, the people are at the point where they want to have a king to rule over them.

It's kind of like they're saying, “God, You're too tight for us. We don't want You to rule over us anymore. We want a king like everybody else to rule over us.”

And God says, “Okay, I’ll give you a king.”

And the guy that has been selected while he was on a little donkey safari was a guy by the name of Saul, the son of Kish.

The thing that we really, really appreciated was that Samuel was willing to step aside. It was like becoming a king for Saul meant that Samuel was going to have a death of his vision, a death of his dreams.

And man’s maturity is reflected by his ability to step aside, to throw his plans to the winds and still be supportive. And that’s the case with Samuel. And it’s beautiful to watch him work because he had plans for his boys to take over and to rule and to reign.

Before we begin our study, let’s talk for just a minute about the three ingredients that are necessary in spiritual leadership.

1. **HUMILITY**—a brokenness and a willingness to let somebody else minister to us.
2. **ACCOUNTABILITY**—we must be accountable to someone else.
3. **TEACHABILITY**—willingness to be taught.

There are some people who are unteachable, who want to be unaccountable, and who are very proud. They’ll never make it

in the realm of spiritual leadership.

Saul is all three of the opposites. We're going to find in the rest of this biography that he's proud. He is not going to be accountable to Samuel, although God says that he is. And he is not going to be teachable. And he did it and it's going to be sad to see.

As we come to this particular episode, we need to put ourselves in Samuel's shoes for a minute. God isn't doing it the way Samuel thought that it ought to be done. And one of the strongest challenges in our Christian life is to submit to the Father's leading when we don't understand what in the world He's doing.

One of the greatest challenges to our faith is just to lay it out there and say, "God it's Yours, take over." And then watch Him begin to work.

And Samuel has to do that. The rest of his story, of his biography from now on, is that he steps in behind the scenes and he has to be supportive of old king Saul.

Well, Saul is **SUPERFICIAL** and he's **SELF-CENTERED**. He's a product of the environment that he's grown-up in. He's totally different from somebody who would be a real servant.

A real servant would be a person who delights to give and who's humble enough to receive. And he's none of these.

It's amazing how competition or stress reveals the selfishness of the heart. Immediately we're going to see this in Saul start to take place.

We're building something here in his biography. We can't know all these things. We put melancholy choleric on him last week, as far as a temperament trait is concerned. But we can't do any more than what we see as the chapters unfold. But we can predict some pretty sad things are going to happen because he is just proud, self-centered, he is not going to be accountable to anybody and he certainly not going to be willing to be taught.

Okay, the scene of the story—Saul had a meeting with Samuel. Samuel gave him the news that he in fact was going to be the one who was going to be allowed to be the first king of God's people. And as they were walking down toward the city limits, he said, "Servant, go ahead. I've got one more thing I want to say to Saul before I leave."

When he left to go to the city limits, our study ended.

Alright, what happens?

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?"

"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?"

"Saul, you're entering into this office not for power or prestige, but for the privilege of being a servant."

There are three things he does. He:

1. ANNOINTS him,
2. expresses AFFECTION, and
3. makes an ANNOUNCEMENT.

First, he pours on the oil, which is the anointing of a king. He kisses him, which is a note of affection. And thirdly, he makes the announcement:

"Has not the Lord anointed you leader over'—WHO?—“his inheritance?”

"Don't ever forget that Saul. They're not your inheritance. They're his."

Deuteronomy 4:12

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.

Moses says in that farewell address in:

Deuteronomy 9:26

I prayed to the Lord and said, “Oh sovereign Lord, do not destroy your people, your own inheritance...”

Peter says:

2 Peter 2:9

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God...

The scripture says Israel is the apple of His eye. We can say apple of His eye, light of His life, but ends up being pain of His neck because oftentimes that's what they were to Him.

They belong to Him. If we're a Christian, we belong to Him twice. He made us originally for Himself and then He bought us a second time with the death of His Son on Calvary.

There's a story of a little boy that made himself a little sailboat and he took it out to sail it. And when he set sail the string broke and the boat took off across the lake. And about two weeks later he saw it in a pawn shop. And he went in and asked the man what the price was, told him that he'd made it but the guy wouldn't believe him. He told him what the price was and he went and earned the money and came back and bought the boat. And as soon as he got it, he said, “Little boat, you're twice mine. First, I made you and then I bought you.”

We are His. We belong to Him twice.

We as Christians are the only thing that God has to look forward to. We are His inheritance. And so at this point he needs to be reminded he's becoming a leader, a king over the Lord's inheritance.

Now Saul can't understand this stuff. He's just blown in here looking for donkeys and all of a sudden he turns around and becomes king of the land. He's just off the farm and he doesn't understand or comprehend all this stuff.

And so at verse 2 Samuel gives him some very specific, tangible proofs that this is true.

When we think we're doing the Lord's will we want to have some evidence that we're doing His will so we seek some proof. Like Gideon said, "Well if it's the Lord's will the fleece will be wet in the morning and then the ground will be dry." And then the next day he said, "Well the fleece will be dry and the ground will be wet" type thing. We always have to have those little proofs.

Here Samuel knows that. This is so much to lay on Saul so quickly.

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?””

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First proof, “On your way back home you’ll go back to Rachel’s tomb.”

Now he’s of the tribe of Benjamin. Remember the story, Jacob and Rachel were very much in love. Rachel could only have kids twice. She had Joseph and then she had Benjamin—the one for whom the tribe is named. And when Benjamin was born Rachel died in childbirth and she was buried right there just a few miles from the city of Bethlehem.

So as he’s passing Rachel’s tomb, there’s going to be somebody who’s going to meet him and tell him this and this and this.

“The donkeys … have been found.” Everything is okay. But “your father has stopped worrying about the donkeys and worrying about, ‘What shall I do about my son?’”

Now that’s the first of three signs. Now let’s look at the next

one.

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.

“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.”

Three men are going up to Bethel. That's the place where Jacob met the Lord on his return back to the land—the house of God—going up to Bethel to worship the Lord. And they're going to have their wine and their bread and these young goats.

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

“They will greet you and offer you two loaves of bread, which you will accept from them.”

Second sign:

1. “you'll go by Rachel's tomb and this is what you'll hear,”
2. “you'll meet these guys going up to worship and this is

what you're supposed to do, you'll accept it."

"It's a gift of homage—which they were taking up to sacrifice to God—but you are now king. They're going to give this to you as an act of homage."

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.

"After that you will go to Gibeah of God,"—of course, home—"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."

We're going to meet quite an entourage—prophets that are prophesying and worshipping the Lord.

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.

"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."

Third sign:

3. “You’re going to meet some prophets and you’re going to join in with them. You’re going to be prophesying. You’re going to be involved.”

Now remember, Saul is a product of his environment. In our last study he didn’t even know Samuel. The servant knew that he existed and told him where to go find him.

Saul has had no time for spiritual things so this is all brand-new stuff to him. He’s never had any experience in this and he doesn’t know which end is up.

He said, “God is going to do a work. You’re going to be empowered by the Spirit and you’re going to be a different person.”

Was Saul ever really saved? Was he ever God’s man?

We’ve got to say NO. But it says he’s a different person. But it doesn’t say he was a new person.

To be a Christian is to be a brand-new person, to really be changed.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new.

He's "different."

It's so easy in Christian circles to go through the motions—to act out the part. Judas Iscariot preached, did miracles, was associated with Christ intimately for three years but his life was never changed.

Saul has the privilege of being king for 40 years, but his life is never going to be changed. We're going to watch him, he's the man who never learned to repent. He's the man who never really turned it over.

Now, this is a great controversy, this particular passage of scripture. Because there are a lot of people who will fight on one side to say he was and others on the other side who'll say no he wasn't. It's obvious by the fruit.

The real test is a changed will. If we're a Christian, and we know the Lord, we really want to do His will and not ours anymore. The first healthy evidence of someone who has really gotten their lives squared away is they're fed up with what they've been trying to do and now they want to do it God's way. They've surrendered their will to His.

If we took Saul of the Old Testament and Saul of the New Testament, we'd find that they're great by contrast. The Saul of the New Testament had a change of will. He was a man who no longer wanted to satisfy himself.

Philippians 3:8

I count everything but loss for excellency and the knowledge of Christ.

“Not my will but His. I want Christ magnified in my life.”

We can get so caught up in trying to figure out theological suppositions and we just put up smoke screens.

Matthew 6:33 says:

Matthew 6:33

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and then all these others things are going to be added unto you.

Did we rise this morning to please ourselves or the Lord? Our answer to that question is an indication of our spiritual health.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me” David says. (ref. Psalm 51:10)

We are to be witnesses to Him. If our heart is right and our will is surrendered then we have spiritual health.

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

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

If these three signs take place—and they’re going to—when they’re finished, he’ll be a different person.

“do whatever your hand finds to do,”

“The opportunity’s before you Saul. Everything’s there you need. God is with you and you’re ready for anything. I’ve given you everything you need.”

The minute a person invites Jesus Christ into their life, God’s saying, “I wiped the slate clean from the past. It’s completely gone as though it had never happened. Today’s the first day of the rest of your life. I put My Spirit within you to energize you to live an abundant, victorious life. I put My Spirit within you to rearrange your priorities to live for My glory and My honor. I provide you every opportunity to say, ‘Not my will but Yours be done.’ I’m willing—I’m not going to move into your life and force you to do something. You’ve got to make a choice. It’s all laid out there for you.”

Saul has everything he needs. He’s got everything provided and available.

Colossians 3:23

And whatever you do, work at it with all of your heart, as working for the Lord, and not for men.

Verse 8 is a critical verse.

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.”

“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.”

What is so critical about that verse? As soon as we become a Christian, God will provide us an early opportunity to see who's running things.

It's easy to make pious talk about the fact that we're going to turn it over to the Lord and it's just going to be wonderful. Then we're going to discover almost instantaneously we're going to get an opportunity to put our money where our mouth is.

We're going to have an opportunity to demonstrate to Him that we really meant what we said.

One more thing—the authority problem in the life of every individual is the number one problem. Who is the authority in our life? Who are we trying to please?

Humility, accountability, teachability.

Samuel right out of the box, before he leaves his presence, provides him with a test case that he's not even aware that he's getting tested. And we're going to find the same thing true in our life. We're going to be tested in some area and we're not even going to know it. But God's sneaking up on our blindside to show us how ugly we are and how bent we really are on doing it our way and we'll make a mess out of it. And then God will pick up the pieces and there we'll be. We'll start over again because He loves us unconditionally and teaches us how to do it the right way.

“Saul, you’re going down to Gilgal. You’re now the king. When you get down to Gilgal you must wait seven full days for me to come. Cool your heels down there.”

And it’s interesting, when he gets down there the Philistines are ready to fight. And Saul can’t wait seven days. And he’s disobedient.

Why does the Lord do that? The first opportunity comes for us to be submissive to authority and obedient to His word, are we going to do it? We have a choice. The stress is on. Are we going to submit ourselves to His authority? Be obedient to His word? Are we going to continue to do it our way and be disobedient? The choice is there and the opportunity.

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

“As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul’s heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day.”

We say, “But God changed his heart.” What does that mean? God even changed his heart so he’d have a desire to do what was right. God gave him everything he needed to be successful. Provided the opportunities, provided the kingdom, provided all the necessities so that this guy is reinforced on every side to be successful. And in changing his heart, He placed within him that desire to do His bidding.

He’s just looking and saying, “Wow, what a man. He’s filled with phenomenal potential. God really picks the good ones.”

And the problem is, we look on the outward appearance, God looks on the heart. A tragedy in this man’s biography is in the sequences that we’re going to look at. He is a man who never learned to live with authority. He was a man who never found the time to repent. And he’s going to run rough-shod over Samuel and everybody else.

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.

“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.”

Now the other two things are really not all that important. The fact that he's going to go by Rachel's tomb and he hears the guy say, "Your donkeys have been found" and he's going to see these three people going up to Bethel to worship and he's going to get the bread. Let's assume that those things took place.

The third one was the biggie. And so everything happened just exactly the way Samuel said it 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?"

"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?'"

It's going to be amazing when we get to heaven to see who's there. Don't be too surprised, because they are going to be surprised that we're there. We need to look at it from that perspective.

This tells us something about Saul. He hasn't been spending much time with the prophets during his early years. He's a rich kid doing drugs and drinking for most of his life. He hadn't had time to be around spiritual things.

The big questions:

Saul with the saints?

Saul in church?

Did Saul go to seminary?

Two questions are asked in that verse:

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

Most of his life has been careless. He's been indifferent. He's been living with a blasé attitude toward God. He's been living for the temporary. The material things—that's all that he cares about. And now all of a sudden, he's interested in spiritual things.

Second question:

2. “Is Saul also among the prophets?”

That's kind of like knowing on Sunday morning we're going to see somebody in church and we can't believe they're there. Right?

John Newton was a horrible example of humanity for so many years. He lives a very sorry and sad life. Sold slaves in Africa and lived a life of degradation and destitution. His life was so dramatically changed that out of the depths of sin he came to

know Christ as Savior and he began to preach the gospel. And he wrote a song that'll never be forgotten:

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

(source unknown)

Saul gives us the idea he was like the rich young fool that we looked at in one of the parables:

Luke 12:19, 20

I will say to my soul, “Soul thou hast much good laid up for many years. Take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry.” But God said unto him, “Thou fool! This night your soul shall be required of thee. And who shall those things be which you’ve provided?”

Saul is called to question at this point because he’s not spent any time with the prophets prior to this occasion.

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

“A man who lived there answered, ‘And who is their father?’ So it became a saying: ‘Is Saul also among the prophets?’”

We need to recognize that we look on the outward appearance and God looks on the heart. This is religion without a relationship. This is association without acceptance. This is a classic illustration in the Old Testament of Judas Iscariot in the know.

He's a man around it, but who really doesn't have a personal relationship.

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

“After Saul stopped prophesying, he went to the high place.”

Now what does that mean? He goes up to church. He goes to the place of worship.

Wonder what he said up there? We might have gotten some kind of clue to the condition of his heart by the way he worshiped.

It's so easy once we become a Christian to become self-righteous. Like the Pharisee, “I thank God that I'm not like other people, or like this tax collector over here.”

Perhaps that was true. The thing is that if a work of God took place in Saul's life that's genuine it'll really start to show up immediately. If not, then the world has a right to question.

We can't take away that Saul of Tarsus was on his way to

Damascus to kill Christians. And after meeting the Lord he sacrificed his life as a chief propagator of the gospel.

Want to hear it from his own mouth?

Galatians 1:13

For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and I tried to destroy it.

Galatians 1:22-24

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 praise God because of me.

And then in Acts 9 it says:

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.

Saul is going through the motions.

Maybe he went to the temple. He went up there to thank God for what he didn't understand. He went up there to praise God that he had the privilege of being the leader. But as far as it affects his personal life, we have to say no.

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.”

“Now Saul's uncle asked him and his servant, ‘Where have you been?’”

That's like, “Why didn't you call?” or “If you were going to be delayed, why didn't you get some message to us?”

Saul has a real opportunity. The ball is in his court. He can brag and say, “Oh I met this man Samuel. I'd never met this guy before but he gave me all this strange series of statements and all these signs.”

But notice he doesn't:

“Looking for the donkeys,’ he said. ‘But when we saw they were not to be found, we went to Samuel.”

He really didn't understand all this. Samuel probably told him

to keep it private. He just didn't really have it all together yet so he doesn't say.

And his uncle presses here in verse 15.

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

“Saul's uncle said, ‘Tell me what Samuel said to you.’”

He evidently thinks there's something going on here.

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.

“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.”

He uses a great deal of description here. What would have happened if he had told him about it? Probably upset him a little bit.

We're reminded of Joseph. Remember when in Genesis 37 Joseph had those first dreams about great grandeur? What does he do? He goes immediately and he tells his brothers. And are they excited? They're ticked.

Genesis 37:8-11

His brothers said to him, “Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule over us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. “I had another dream, and this time the sun, the moon and the eleven 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.

Saul at least keeps it private for right now. Now it comes time for the political caucuses. We’re going to the political convention. We didn’t know there was one of these in the Bible?

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

“Samuel summoned the people of Israel to the Lord at Mizpah”

He privately, while the servant goes on ahead, anointed him on the outskirts of the little town when they were together.

Now it’s time for a public pronouncement of the program.

The thing that really gets us here is that Samuel is the one who superintends the convention. And he’s the guy who’s

being asked to step down. But he is so delighted to be a servant, he's not going to let this whole change in God's program affect him personally.

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.’

“and said to them, ‘This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says:’”

Talk about an opening statement at a political convention that ought to really get their attention. Look what is said:

““I brought Israel up out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the power of Egypt and all the kingdoms that oppressed you.””

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.”

“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.””

Unbelievable that somebody who would hear a statement like

that would still want to have a king? To hear God speak through his man, “You are turning your backs on Me.”

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people who are called by my name would humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I would hear from heaven and would heal their land.

This is exactly where we are in the United States. The majority of political leaders are turning their backs on God and they think because of their pulsating prosperity they can shake their fist in the face of God and say, “We did it by ourselves and You don’t have any claim to our lives.”

We’re becoming increasingly more secular, increasingly more materialistic, turning our backs on the God who’s made it completely possible.

What does this statement tell us? This tells us that Saul is a product of his environment. And that he as a king is only going to reflect what the people desire. He is in fact, being a product of rebellious people, and in his state of life he’s only a product of his environment. He’s going to demonstrate a defiant spirit, a stubborn heart. They want a king to rule over them.

We read the following:

Psalm 14:1

The fool has said in his heart,
There is no God.

Psalm 27:1

Boast not yourself of tomorrow
for you know not what a day may bring forth

Hebrews 10:31

It's a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

There's a strange enigma among us today and that is we can break the rules and get away with it.

Galatians 6:7

God is not laughed at; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Jesus is strong on this. As they're rejecting Him He says this:

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.

Samuel stands up before this great crowd of people and he gives this stern warning at the opening of the convention. Then he says:

“now present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and your clans.”

Before a political convention they have to organize themselves by states, don't they?

“Okay, organize yourselves by tribes and clans because we're going to pick a king.”

The Lord is going to give them their request but He's going to send leanness into their souls.

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

“When Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen.”

They get all twelve of the tribes here. The lot falls on the tribe of Benjamin. That's the first selection.

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.

“Then he brought forward the tribe of Benjamin, clan by clan,”—family by family—“and Matri’s clan was chosen. Finally Saul the son of Kish was chosen. But when they looked for him, he was not to be found.”

That also tells us something about him. If he were really God’s man he wouldn’t be afraid of this situation. Fear is replaced with courage, conviction and confidence.

It’s like Martin Luther, “Here I stand, God help me.”

Isaiah 59:19

When the enemy shall come in like a flood the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against them.

Isaiah 41:10

Fear thou not for I am with thee ...

Saul is like a little kid. He ran and hid in the baggage instead of standing up when he’s chosen.

Kind of eked humility.

Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man brings a snare, but whoso puts his trust in the Lord shall be saved.

If we're scared, we've probably got our eyes on ourselves. If we're anxious, worried and fearful, we have our eyes in the wrong place.

Isaiah 26 says:

Isaiah 26:3

Thou will keep in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

All this is an indication that Saul has his eyes on himself and not on the Lord, and he's scared.

It could be very possible that Saul, having heard this initial warning, probably ran and hid in hopes they changed their mind. Because who wants to be a king over people who are rejecting God?

But Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, when they were told to bow before the idol, said, "We will not bow before the idol." And the king said, "You're going into the fiery furnace." And they said, "So what. Our God is able to deliver us, even from the fiery furnace. And if He doesn't, we still will not bow to your gods of gold." (see Daniel 3)

Now that's the kind of courage that is always seen in a godly person who's facing the responsibilities and the opportunities of life.

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.”

“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.’”

He's down there in all the suitcases and sleeping bags, laying down there in the pile.

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

“They ran and brought him out, and as he stood among the people he was a head taller than any of the others.”

Here's an awkward, gangly guy. They're bringing him out. Kind of foolish when he ought to be a commanding, distinguished figure because everything had been provided for his leadership.

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!”

“Samuel said to all the people, ‘Do you see the man the Lord has chosen?’”

That had to be a hard statement for him to make.

“There is no one like him among all the people.’ Then the people shouted, ‘Long live the king!’”

What a transition from this private anointing in the beginning of the chapter to this public demonstration.

“God save the king!” And they still say it in 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.

“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 Saul also went to his home in Gibeah, accompanied by valiant men whose hearts God had touched.

“Saul also went to his home in Gibeah, accompanied by

valiant men whose hearts God had touched.”

God even gave him a Secret Service, a bunch of guys who were committed to his leadership, to be his cabinet, to be his source of protection and strength.

God gave him everything he needed! Everything! And it's so easy when we start out to look the part and really not have the foggiest notion about what God is trying to do.

There were support personnel all around him! But we can still fail.

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

“But some troublemakers said, ‘How can this fellow save us?’ They despised him and brought him no gifts. But Saul kept silent.”

We find when we get into a place of leadership, we're going to get some people who are hassled over the fact that someone is a leader. And they're going to take it out on them.

And immediately there's a rumbling in the ranks. “Who's this guy? What's he going to do?” And it says:

“Saul kept silent.”

As the new king he had the prerogative to say, “Off with your head men.” But he “kept silent.”

Saul has decided that his strategy was to put his money where his mouth was. To demonstrate in the future by his action what he’s going to be able to do as king so he doesn’t mess with the opposition.

We always find that when God does a work there are going to be two answers. There are going to be hearts that are touched that are going to follow the king. And there are going to be hearts that won’t respond and who are going to say, “Who is this?” And they’re going to be enemies.

There are going to be the “haves” and the “have nots.”

1 John 5:12

He who has the Son has life and he who has not the Son of God has not life.

Two responses.

At this point he is going to the house, he is now the king. Wait until our next study.

What are some of the lessons we get out of the study?

Lesson #1: God never violates your free will.

He will often give us our request but send leanness into our soul.

Lesson #2: There will be evidences in your path that God is directing your steps.

We saw that in the perfect timing of Samuel and Saul meeting. And we see it again in these verses.

Lesson #3: Have you been changed into a different person?

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ he's a new creation. Old things are passed away, behold all things are become new.

Have we been changed into a different person because we've come to know Christ?

Lesson #4: Has anybody ever asked you what has happened to you?

That is one of the greatest compliments we can get.

Lesson #5: Are you sensitive, submissive and obedient to the Lord?

Psalm 139:23, 24

Search me O God and know my heart ...

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

The disciples left their nets to follow Christ, have we done that?

“Speak Lord for thy servant heareth.” (ref. 1 Samuel 3:10)

Lesson #7: The last thing to go in the pursuit of the abundant life is pride and self-sufficiency.

It's that which keeps us at a distance with God. Because we always seem to know what's best. And we never come broken and contrite.

The last thing to go in the pursuit of the abundant life is pride and self-sufficiency. Saul never gets beyond that.

It's so easy to go through the motions and to act the part. To take for granted all that He offers, but never really let it touch us personally and change our life.

Father, we could look at this chapter in isolation and say, “Wow, what a man.” He was prophesying with the prophets at church. He really was a different man. We formulate that opinion about each other when we suddenly make some tremendous change and turn in the road. But if we're just going through the motions, it's not going to last. It is only with a broken and contrite heart, as we open up ourselves before

You, surrender our pride and our rights and our self-sufficiency. Throwing away the fluff to find maximum fulfilment in the way of the cross that leads home. We would pray if there are those who do not have a relationship with You yet, who have not come to that moment of personal fulfillment by receiving Christ as Savior, that You'd really speak to them. That You'd cause them to open up and to find the abundant, abundant blessing that can be theirs by receiving You as Savior and Lord. Father, we thank You that we've seen another evidence of how a man of God can still be supportive although he's being set aside. He could take a personal offense but You gave them a warning that they were rejecting You more than they were Your prophet. Thank You for Samuel as he stands behind the scenes and all of these situations, still supportive, still desirous for the best interest of Your people. Lord, we pray as Saul gets his first opportunity to see whether he can live comfortably with authority, that we too might see some of the circumstances of our lives as just the same. Whether we'll be obedient or disobedient, whether we'll rise above the circumstances or be pulled down by them, whether we will hear Your voice or the voice of others. Grant that we might be refreshed in knowing that You're going to bless, You're going to honor, as we stand in the place of conviction and we fulfil Your purposes and Your desires. Thank You that Your word is very relevant and ask You to search our hearts in light of it. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

What You Need to Know About SAUL:

“The King with the Unsurrendered Will and the Unrepentant Heart”

Study Number Two – 1 Samuel 10:1-27

NOTES

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.”

NOTES

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."

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 Samuel summoned the people of Israel to the Lord at Mizpah

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.'

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."

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

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."

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

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!"

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

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Samuel 10:1-27 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does Samuel do to Saul, according to verse 1?

3. Outline the signs which Samuel gives to Saul in verses 2-6.

4. What does Samuel command Saul to do after the signs are fulfilled in verse 7?

5. What happened to Saul, according to verse 9?

6. What information did Saul withhold from his uncle, according to verse 16?

7. Where was Saul when it was time for him to be crowned king over Israel, according to verse 22?

8. How did Saul handle the opposition, according to verse 27?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

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?

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