

SERMON NOTES

APRIL 25/26, 2015

People and Passages: Saul

1 Samuel 10:1-16 (NLT)
Pastor Rick Countryman

In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit. Judges 21:25(NIV84)

2 important thoughts about Saul

1. God did all He could to ensure to that Saul would be a great king.

1 Samuel 10:1-24 (NLT)

Then Samuel took a flask of olive oil and poured it over Saul's head. He kissed Saul and said, "I am doing this because the LORD has appointed you to be the ruler over Israel, his special possession." Verse 1

At that time the Spirit of the LORD will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them. You will be changed into a different person. Verse 6

As Saul turned and started to leave, God gave him a new heart... Verse 9

Then Samuel said to all the people, "This is the man the LORD has chosen as your king. No one in all Israel is like him!" And all the people shouted, "Long live the king!" Verse 24

When Saul had finished prophesying, he went up to the place of worship. "Where have you been?" Saul's uncle asked him and his servant. "We were looking for the donkeys," Saul replied, "but we couldn't find them. So we went to Samuel to ask him where they were." "Oh? And what did he say?" his uncle asked. "He told us that the donkeys had already been found," Saul replied. But Saul didn't tell his uncle what Samuel said about the kingdom. Verses 13-16

So Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel before the LORD, and the tribe of Benjamin was chosen by lot. Then he brought each family of the tribe of Benjamin before the LORD, and the family of the Matrites was chosen. And finally Saul son of Kish was chosen from among them. But when they looked for him, he had disappeared. So they asked the LORD, "Where is he?" And the LORD replied, "He is hiding among the baggage." So they found him and brought him out, and he stood head and shoulders above anyone else. Then Samuel said to all the people, "This is the man the LORD has chosen as your king. No one in all Israel is like him!" And all the people shouted, "Long live the king!" Verses 20-24

When Saul returned to his home at Gibeah, a group of men whose hearts God had touched went with him. But there were some scoundrels who complained, "How can this man save us?" And they scorned him and refused to bring him gifts. But Saul ignored them. Verses 26-27

What can we bring to the LORD? What kind of offerings should we give him? Should we bow before God with offerings of yearling calves? Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:6-8 (NLT)

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Ephesians 4:1-2 (NIV)

God opposes the proud but favors the humble. James 4:6 (NLT)

Then the LORD said to Samuel, "I am sorry that I ever made Saul king, for he has not been loyal to me and has refused to obey my command." Samuel was so deeply moved when he heard this that he cried out to the LORD all night. 1 Samuel 15:10-11 (NLT)

Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NLT)

2. Saul chose to disobey God.

One day Samuel said to Saul, "It was the LORD who told me to anoint you as king of his people, Israel. Now listen to this message from the LORD. This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies has declared: I have decided to settle accounts with the nation of Amalek for opposing Israel when they came from Egypt. Now go and completely destroy the entire Amalekite nation—men, women, children, babies, cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys."

So Saul mobilized his army at Telaim. There were 200,000 soldiers from Israel and 10,000 men from Judah. Then Saul and his army went to a town of the Amalekites and lay in wait in the valley. Saul sent this warning to the Kenites: "Move away from where the Amalekites live, or you will die with them. For you showed kindness to all the people of Israel when they came up from Egypt." So the Kenites packed up and left.

Then Saul slaughtered the Amalekites from Havilah all the way to Shur, east of Egypt. He captured Agag, the Amalekite king, but completely destroyed everyone else. Saul and his men spared Agag's life and kept the best of the sheep and goats, the cattle, the fat calves, and the lambs—everything, in fact, that appealed to them. They destroyed only what was worthless or of poor quality.

Then the LORD said to Samuel, "I am sorry that I ever made Saul king, for he has not been loyal to me and has refused to obey my command." Samuel was so deeply moved when he heard this that he cried out to the LORD all night. 1 Samuel 15:1-11 (NLT)

But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams." 1 Samuel 15:22 (NLT)

This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says: "Take your burnt offerings and your other sacrifices and eat them yourselves! When I led your ancestors out of Egypt, it was not burnt offerings and sacrifices I wanted from them. This is what I told them: 'Obey me, and I will be your God, and you will be my people. Do everything as I say, and all will be well!'" Jeremiah 7:21-23 (NLT)

As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out to Jesus, "Blessed is the mother who gave birth to you and nursed you." But Jesus said, "No, blessed are those who hear the teaching of God and obey it." Luke 11:27-28 (NCV)

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Philippians 2:5-8 (NLT)

Then Saul admitted to Samuel, "Yes, I have sinned. I have disobeyed your instructions and the LORD's command, for I was afraid of the people and did what they demanded. But now, please forgive my sin and come back with me so that I may worship the LORD."

But Samuel replied, "I will not go back with you! Since you have rejected the LORD's command, he has rejected you as king of Israel."

As Samuel turned to go, Saul tried to hold him back and tore the hem of his robe. And Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to someone else—one who is better than you." 1 Samuel 15:24-28 (NLT)

Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years...He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, but not wholeheartedly. 2 Chronicles 25:1-2 (NIV)

When all is said and done, what will the last chapter of your life say?

DAILY MEDITATIONS

APRIL 25/26, 2015

Memory Verse:

Jesus replied, "But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice."
Luke 11:28 (NLT)

Monday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Review the sermon outline. Which part of the sermon spoke to you? _____

From the sermon, what did you learn about the first king of Israel? _____

What challenged you about Saul's life? _____

Tuesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Samuel 8:1-22. In what ways did Samuel's sons not follow God? _____

For what did the people ask Samuel? Why? _____

Why did this request displease Samuel? _____

How did God respond to the people's request? _____

Read 1 Samuel 9:1-2, 15-17. How does this passage describe Saul? _____

What did God tell Samuel to do? What did God say Saul would do? _____

Wednesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Samuel 10:1-8. Describe the different groups of people Samuel said Saul would meet. _____

What instructions does Samuel give Saul in verses 7-8? _____

Read 1 Samuel 10:9-26. What did God do for Saul? _____

Where was Saul when Samuel was choosing a king? Why do you think he hid? _____

How did the people respond to Saul being named king? _____

Describe a time when fear caused you to hide from what God had for you. _____

Thursday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Samuel 13:1-14. What news did Israel hear (v. 4)? _____

What did the Israelites do when they realized the situation was critical? _____

Where did Saul remain? For how long? Why did he wait this long (1 Samuel 10:8)? _____

What did Saul do when his men began to scatter? Why did he do this? _____

What were the consequences of Saul's disobedience? _____

Friday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Samuel 15:1-31. What did Samuel tell Saul to do? What did Saul do? _____

What did the Lord tell Samuel in verse 11? What did Saul tell Samuel in verse 13? _____

How did Saul justify what he did? _____

Summarize what Samuel said to Saul in verses 22-23. _____

How did Saul respond to Samuel's words? _____

Why do you think partial obedience is disobedience to God? _____