

## 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel Ch 8-10

Vs 1-3

There are a couple of things that we want to observe here concerning what's going on, what's happening in this situation. Samuel (it seems) was one of the most godly men who's ever graced the pages of scripture, the Holy Spirit never really records any heinous sin of his or draws attention to him in a negative way.

However in an indirect way, it may be that we're seeing a bit of fault in Samuel right here, in appointing his sons as judges over the people. For at least 2 reasons, #1 we never find in the pattern of the judges, the rule of the people being passed down from father to son, now the kings would do this, but not the judges. And #2 Which is really just a supplement to #1 and that is that it was God who would appoint the judges or the rulers of the people not man and such is the case with really any capacity of ministry. We read in Heb 5:1-4 *"For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was."* In other words no man (or woman) takes an office in ministry unto himself, only God is able to appoint and anoint, those whom He's called for the capacity of leadership, or service in *any* role.

So though this type of favoritism is fairly common as Pastor's or people in ministry grow older, it's not necessarily ordained by God. Now God can pass the ministry on down to the son, but it's not the right of the father to presume on God and just give it to his son, it has to bear witness by the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the son.

Which obviously wasn't happening here, these boys went sour and as to where Eli's sons turned aside after lust, Samuel's sons fell prey to lucre, or money. And it's tragic and you know that Samuel has to be thinking of these things because he grew up in the temple, he saw what Eli's sons did and how they fell and took advantage of the people. And now his own sons are taking bribes and letting people buy their way out of proper repercussions, and the judgment goes to the highest bidder.

Deut 16:19 records in the law for the overseers and people of Israel, *"You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous."* Paul told Timothy that an overseer of the people of God isn't to be *"given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;"* 1 Tim 3:3 Why? *"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."* 1 Tim 6:10 and We spoke Sunday morning about those who consider godliness as a means of gain and how the bible says, *"From such with draw yourself."*

But such is the profile of Samuel's sons, how could this be? How could such a godly man have such ungodly offspring? I have found 2 general reasons, 1 there is no reason, sometimes godly parents can instruct their children in the ways of the Lord, and when they come to a point of decision time they reject the Lord and embrace the world. And there is no rational explanation, and all you can do is pray for them that they return to the Lord, we know that Samuel set up an altar in Ramah where his home was. So it would seem that he invested the values of the kingdom into his family, but it's also possible that he was so consumed in the ministry that his priorities became blurred. And he was on the circuit so much (that we seen in vs 16 of ch 7) that his family got neglected, he was so busy tending to everyone else's needs, that his own family suffered.

You guys, this is very common in the ministry, (pray for me, that I might keep my priorities right). It's so easy to justify the neglect of your own family in the name of ministry, in the name of God's call on your life, and we lose sight of God's primary calling on our lives to our family.

And we just assume that because we're dragging them to church with us every week that it's all going to turn out ok, listen, it might not turn out ok. There needs to be a solid foundation of God's Word, and His precepts and principals laid down in the foundation of our children, because just because you're right with God, that doesn't automatically qualify your kids for ministry. Nor does it mean that they even know the Lord, his sons didn't walk in his ways, and he never should've appointed them into places of leadership.

Vs4-5

Well, they're with drawing themselves from the lovers of money which is a good thing, but simultaneously they're rejecting God's order which is a bad thing. "Samuel, you're old, you're out of the loop, no longer able to effectively tend to the needs of the nation, and your kids are jacked up, they don't even serve the Lord."

Now in reality it wasn't Samuel who was ruling the nation, it was the Lord, and He's not too old, but they're simply looking for a means to justify the desire of their own heart, not looking for the desire of God's heart. And what is it that they want? A king, (but here's the let down of it all) "like all the nations" they already had a king; the Lord was their King. They were living in a Theocracy, a God governed nation, but what they were wanting was a monarchy, and man governed nation. They wanted something they could see and touch; they wanted to be like the people of the world.

Be careful when you find yourself desiring to be like the people of the world, when you feel like you have to fit in and be accepted according to worldly standards. You're to be the ones setting the standards, not following worldly standards. This is a huge snare for believers today, we're all the time falling prey to what the world considers as fashionable, or the latest fads. And so when this type of clothes are in style we rush out and get them, when that's the hairstyle everyone is going for we're quick to follow suit, if tattoos are in, then ink me up.

And it's not that it's sin to want to look nice or even dress nice, but it's that we want to be like all the other nations, rather than leading lifestyles and setting standards that cause all the other nations to want to be like us.

Israel was to be a beacon of light, demonstrating to the world what it meant to serve the Lord, what a blessed life it was to have God as their King, to be attractive to them so that they might repent and turn to the Lord. Not attractive in the carnal sense of the word, but spiritually attractive, showing them that life runs much deeper than the carnal and material things, but instead they wanted to be like the world.

Now, what about us? Turn to 1 Peter ch 2 (Vs 9-12)

God doesn't want *you* to turn to the *nations*, but He wants the *nations* to turn to *you*, that He might be glorified through you. They wanted a king to judge them like all the nations.

Vs 6

Draw attention to that in your bibles, "The thing displeased Samuel, so Samuel prayed to the Lord." and Again jot down in your notes that you might pray for me, Samuel sets such an example here. So often when some "thing" comes along that displeases me, that upsets me; I wish I could tell you that when that "thing" displeases me (whatever that thing is) that I pray to the Lord. But generally I either rant and rave 1<sup>st</sup> and pray later, or try and remedy the situation myself and when I get so frustrated that I can't stand it anymore (only in desperation) I begin to pray.

But by then I'm usually so ate up with guilt and condemnation that I don't feel like I should pray, "God doesn't want to talk to me when I'm like this" and all these emotions are just foaming up, and I'm having to deal with And wrestle through them. Then I have to repent and humble myself (which is never fun) and seek either restoration or reconciliation or both.

Samuel does a wise thing here, this thing displeased him, so he prayed to the Lord. That was the 1<sup>st</sup> thing he did, and I have no doubt that it saved him a world of hurt and ramifications. Ps 109:4 ( And this is a great scripture) "*In return for my love they are my accusers, But I give myself to prayer.*" You're doing what's right, they're coming against you, what do you do? Recompense evil for evil? No, you give yourself to prayer, you trust the Lord, you pray for your enemies and those who spitefully use you, that you may be sons of your Father who is in Heaven.

Vs7-9

This is what we talked about Sunday morning, so many times in a given situation of contention or hostility we take rejection personally, but in ministry that ought never be the case. If you're representing the Lord, and you're sharing His Word, and His precepts, and they're rejecting you in that, it's not you they're rejecting; it's the Lord.

If you were telling them everything they wanted to hear, and bending to their whims they'd love you, because you're faithful to wound them they reject you. Jesus said, *"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."* and That's what God is saying here, "Since the day that I've brought them up out of Egypt, out of the bondage, and the snares of their captivity in the world, they've done nothing but whine and gripe and try to kick Me out of their lives. And now that you represent Me to them, they're simply doing the same thing to you." So God says, "Give them what they want, but telling them what they're getting." and You've heard the phrase, "Be careful what you ask for, you just might get it." That's what's happening here.

Something interesting to note about prayer, God will not always withhold from you that which is no good for you. If you persist and persist and persist whining and griping and wanting your own way, eventually you'll get it.

"We're sick of this manna!" they cried. "We want meat!" So God said, "Fine, you want meat, it's going to be running out your nose." "The giants are huge, we don't want to cross over into the Promised Land." God said, "Fine, then you get to wonder the desert for 40 yrs." "We want a king like all the nations" "You want a king, fine, but you're not going to like what you get." So just because we've gripped so much to God that He gives us what we want, don't automatically assume that it's going to be a blessing to your life. More than likely God will use it to teach you a lesson as to why you need to be content with that which He allots to you. You see the problem wasn't that they wanted a physical king (so much); God anticipated this day and set up instructions for it in His Word. But it's that they weren't willing to wait on God to bring it to pass, God had a man that He was going to raise up, a man after His own heart, his name was David. Saul was not God's choice; he was the people's choice, (remember that). And I suggest to you that this entire fiasco with Saul would've never come into existence had the people waited on the Lord, and been satisfied with Him. I believe that God would've just raised up David, but because of the sin of the people, it will have ramifications for years to come both in the life of the nation, and David's life personally.

Vs10-18

What's the summary of these vs, regarding them desiring a physical king, the guy they get is going to take, take, take, take, take, and take some more.

He won't give, as the Lord gives, he'll take for his own personal gain, and Solomon is probably the best example of that, and God is warning them in advance, that they'll be taxed and taken, for the best of all they have.

Not that it'll change them, He knows that won't happen, but now they're accountable, and the people think it's a price they're willing to pay.

Vs19-22

## Ch9

## Vs1-2

So here we're introduced to Saul, and in vs 1 where we read that he came from a family of power, that Kish his dad was a mighty man, what that means is that he came from a very wealthy and influential family in Israel, Saul was born into wealth and influence.

And we read that he was head and shoulders taller than just about everyone else, and that he was a good looking man, the best looking man in the entire nation, the point being that this man just looked like a king. He was tall, dark, and handsome, we find that he was a farm boy so he was pretty stout as well. But what we don't read is anything that has to do with him knowing the Lord, now we don't read that he despised the Lord, but he didn't know the Lord either. He was just a good ol' boy and if he was alive today, he'd be on Hollywood's most wanted list.

But remember he's not God's choice, he's the choice that God knew the people would want, God's choice was David, but the people wanted someone who looked like a king, someone who seemed impressive and prestigious, they were looking to the outward appearance, but they weren't concerned with his heart. The name "Saul" means "desired" or "asked of" so fitting that he'd be the man God gives them, he's the one they're asking for (in type, he's the type of man they want).

## Vs3

Donkeys were like Cadillac's, if you owned one you weren't doing bad, you were upper middle class, if you owned 2 you weren't hurting at all, and if you owned more than 2 than you lived in Loma Linda, or some posh place where you were never in want for anything.

## Vs4-6

I find it interesting that Saul lived about 5 miles from Samuel, and didn't even know that there was such a man. Again spiritual matters just weren't the primary objectives of Saul's life, he went to work, made a living, and minded his own business.

## Vs7

Now we shouldn't assume that Samuel expected to get paid, we know that wasn't the case from the previous ch, but this was simple customary courtesy.

## Vs8-9

Seers came to be known for necromancy, and contacting the dead, they were mediums and gypsy kind of people, palm readers and telling your fortune through holding your jewelry or reading astrological forecast. And God had expressly forbid these types of things, and so He didn't identify those whom He spoke to like those worldly demonic people. Now the word "seer" didn't always have those connotations, but when they came along God changed the title of His men to "prophets" and we're told this because Saul will ask for the seer.

## Vs10-13

Boy, they answered him in full detail didn't they, these ladies see the best looking guy in the nation and they're careful to keep him there as long as they can, so they make sure there's no mistaking where he's at.

## Vs14-16

God spoke in Samuel's hearing, was it audible, maybe, it leans that way, but I find it interesting that Samuel spoke in God's ear in vs 21 of ch 8, so God spoke in his ear when He wanted to speak to him. Prayer is 2-way communication; we generally make it monologue vs a dialogue, but God wants to speak to you as well. And those who communicate with God, will find that God will communicate with them as well.

## Vs17-19

Now that might make me a bit uncomfortable. But God knows our hearts, and there's just no hiding it from Him.

## Vs20

Now, Saul's mind is being blown, "Stay with me tonight and tomorrow I'm going to speak to you about the position of your heart, and oh by the way, your donkeys, don't worry about them, they've already been found." and You're going, "Whoa, this is weird!" and Then he speaks even wilder, "And on whom is the desire of Israel?" Now what did Israel desire? A king, Saul knew that, and Samuel says, "It's on you and your fathers house." In other words, "You're the type of man they're looking for, and you're the one they're going to get."

## Vs21-22

So Saul says, "What are you talking about man?" "My tribe is the smallest one there is" (remember Benjamin was almost completely annihilated because of that group of homosexual men that raped a woman all night long and killed her and so Israel nearly wiped them out.) and Then he makes a modest statement about his family being the least in the tribe which Samuel ignores like, "yeah right pal." Remember he was born into a family of wealth and influence, so Samuel brings him to the table with about 30 other people.

## Vs23-27

Tell your servant to go on; God wants your attention privately. It's interesting to me, how God used such seemingly menial means, to get Saul to Samuel. It was donkeys that he was looking for, and so often the things that frustrate us, or get us out of our everyday routine that we allow to consume us, just aren't the main thing. And God would say to us, "Don't worry about that, don't let that distract you and bother you, I'm just trying to get you to come up to this place and dine at My table, because there's something I want to reveal to you." "I'm just using that nuisance to get you where you need to be so that you might hear from Me."

## Ch 10

## Vs1

The anointing and calling of Saul, and God will seemingly always sanction you *privately* before He ratifies you *publicly*. This was between Saul and the Lord, no big crowds, not even Saul's servant, now with the anointing of oil we find that it happens a # of different ways in the Scriptures. Sometimes it would be poured (such as we see here) other times it would be sprinkled, meaning that the Holy Spirit's equipping for service is poured out in different ways and in different measures at different times on different persons depending on the task at hand.

And that's what the anointing oil represented, the anointing of God's Holy Spirit being poured out on you, now the oil (much like baptism in that it was only an outward representation) did nothing for you, it only spoke of an inward position of what God was doing in your life.

And Samuel kisses Saul to show him that he has his support and reminds him that Israel isn't his (Saul's) it's the Lord's inheritance.

Vs2-8

So in order to confirm what just happened on his life, Samuel gives Saul a very specific prophesy.

Vs6 being the literal fulfillment of the "type" in vs 1, the Holy Spirit will come upon him and turn him into another man.

And Samuel really goes out on a limb here with the details of what he says, there will be 2 men, then 3 men, they'll offer you bread, take it, (2 loaves) he even told them what the 2 men would say, then he'll meet a praise band of prophets & all of this will culminate with the Holy Spirit coming upon you. And you'll be turned into another man, and you'll begin to prophesy. And such is always the case, not that we prophesy, but that we're turned into another person when the Holy Spirit comes upon us.

God's got a work for Saul's life, but not in Saul's might, it's not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord. So Saul was anointed and then God confirmed His anointing of Saul's life.

Vs9

Why, did God wait until he turned his back on Samuel? I believe it was so that Saul wouldn't be confused as to who to look to, if it was while he was looking at Samuel, he might think Samuel had something to do with it. But now he knows what just happened to him was the Lord, not the Lord's servant.

Vs10-13

In other words Saul was the last guy that anyone expected to prophesy, or be found giving praise to God, and edifying God's people. God called Saul like he was, but didn't leave him that way in His work. And such is always the case, and this proverb is simply to say that when something incredibly unlikely happened, they likened it to this event.

Some shockingly unlikely news comes along about someone and it's "Man, is Saul also among the prophets" or "I can't believe it!" "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" It's that type of comment.

Vs14-19

So God reminds them of the fact that they've always had a rebellious edge and that the ceremony today does more than officiate a king, it's their official rejection of Him. And now he publicly ratifies Saul, but so that everyone will know that Samuel didn't just pick this guy out, they cast lots, or inquire of the Urim and the Thummim so that everyone is secure regarding God's hand in this.

Vs20-22

Now I don't know if this is false humility, genuine humility or simple embarrassment, but he already knows he's the king and yet he's not responding positively to God's calling, which should be causing the yellow lights to flash in Israel's minds already.

Vs23-24

Literally, "May the king live" or some of your bible say, "God save the king" which they still say in England today. But understand that when it says here, "Whom the Lord has chosen" God chose the man they wanted, this is their choice, God's choice was for Him to be their King and then David to be raised up.

Vs25-27

Now this doesn't mean he taught them how to hold a tea cup, no doubt he expounded Deuteronomy 17:14-20 for them and wrote it down. And I'll close with this thought concerning verse 26, I love the phrase regarding the men who were with him, "whose hearts God had touched." There is such incredible potential packed in this phrase, you get a band of men together whose hearts have been touched by God, and there's not going to be any limit to what God can do. May God touch our hearts, and do radical things with our lives to His glory.