

Is this what you asked for? (1 Samuel 10:9-27 & Luke 4:1-13)

05-May-19

G'Day Church Family

It would be good to have your Bibles turned to 1 Samuel chapter 10

There's the usual outline for you to take notes

Let me ask for God's help though, before we begin.

Let's pray...

Recap

Let's just recap where we got to last time...

[PowerPoint 1-Recap]

Around about 1050BC

Israel was not happy with the succession plan of having the prophet Samuel's sons as their leaders - because Samuel's sons were corrupt

So, Israel asked for a king

The problem with that was - they already had a king - that's God - and so they were rejecting God as their King and rejecting His kingship

God even knew they would ask for a King

Hundreds of years earlier in Deuteronomy 17:14-15 - Moses said this to the people of Israel

¹⁴ When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, "Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us," ¹⁵ be sure to appoint over you a king the LORD your God chooses.

[PowerPoint 2-Recap]

But the real problem is that the people of Israel want a king like the other nations

Back in 1 Samuel 8:19-20 we read

The people of Israel asked God for a King – "We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out and fight for us and fight our battles"

But Israel was not supposed to be like the other nations who worshipped false gods and relied on themselves - they were supposed to worship the one true God and rely on Him for all things

Samuel warns them what a king will be like in 1 Samuel 8:11-18

- A future King will take their sons for the army and to make weapons
- A future King will take their daughters to be perfumers and bakers
- A future King will take the best of their land and vineyards and olive groves
- He will take a 10th of their produce
- He will take the best of their livestock and flocks
- He will take their servants as his servants

- Basically, having a king like the other nations - will mean the King will take - take - take
- Then Samuel warned in 8:18 - when you cry out for relief from this King - God will not listen

Nevertheless, God gave the people what they asked for - a King like the other nations

3 points I'd like to make this morning [evening]

[PowerPoint 3-3 points]

1. God Changes Saul's Heart
2. God Confirms Saul as King
3. There are different responses to Saul as King

God Changes Saul's Heart (1 Samuel 10:9-16)

First - God changes Saul's heart - in verses 9-16 of chapter 10

[PowerPoint 4-1 Sam 10:9-16]

- God previously promised in vv1-8 of chapter 10 - there would be 3 signs to show Saul he was to be king
- In v9 - these 3 signs are fulfilled - and God changed Saul's heart by giving him the Holy Spirit
- And Saul began to prophesy - v10 - by that we mean - Saul spoke words given to him by God
- The people who knew Saul were amazed - is this really Saul?

- It should remind us of what people said about Jesus - when He taught the people - those who knew Jesus from before were asking themselves - *Is this really the carpenter's son?*
- In Saul's case he was a changed man
- This is what the power of God's Spirit does - it transforms people
- In v12 - someone asked when they saw Saul prophesying with the other prophets - who is their father?
- What they mean by this - is just because someone is a prophet - doesn't mean their father was a prophet - prophets are not hereditary
- Prophets come from God - God is their father
- And it's the same with being a Christian - just because parents are Christians - doesn't mean automatically that their children are Christian -
- Being a Christian is a personal relationship with Jesus and involves the indwelling of the Holy Spirit
- God doesn't have grandchildren - only children
- Everyone has to become a child of God in their own right - by having faith in Jesus - and being born again - born from above - reborn with the Holy Spirit
- When Saul met his uncle (in v14-16) - Saul explained that he had been looking for his Father's donkeys and had sought the help of the man of God - Samuel - who had reassured Saul the donkeys had been found
- Saul didn't tell his uncle that Samuel had anointed him as King for a few reasons:

- Because earlier in chapter 10 - V8 - Samuel had told Saul to wait seven days - until Samuel came and told Saul what to do next
- Also, Saul didn't fully understand what being a king meant - this was a completely new system of leadership that Israel was entering into
- Also, Saul was an ordinary guy and humble

Nevertheless, God changed Saul's heart in preparation for his role as King

God confirms Saul as King (1 Samuel 10:17-22)

Second point - God confirms Saul as King - see verses 17 to 22 of chapter 10

[PowerPoint 5-1 Sam 10:17-22]

- Previously at the beginning of chapter 10 - Samuel had anointed Saul as King in private
- Now in verses 17-22 - God confirmed Saul as King in a most public manner
- God told Samuel to summon all the 12 tribes of Israel to come before the Lord at Mizpah
- All of Israel will witness the King's coronation
- God reminded Israel how he brought Israel up out of Egypt - and delivered them from the cruel power of the Egyptians
- And God reminded them that by asking for a King - they had rejected God as their King - even though God had consistently saved them from various disasters and helped them in battles against the surrounding nations
- What plays out is a massive casting of lots [like a lottery] - even though God had already privately chosen Saul - God controlled the lots and the result - so that the tribe of Benjamin was chosen - then the clan of Matri was chosen - and then Saul son of Kish was chosen as King

- In bizarre fashion though - when Saul was chosen - Saul couldn't be found - he was hiding in the baggage [Like a child hiding in all the school bags outside class]
- Why is Saul hiding? A few reasons...
 - He was overawed at being chosen as King
 - He didn't fully understand his job description
 - And despite being head and shoulders taller than anyone else - He was humble

Nevertheless, God gave the people what they asked for

There are different responses to Saul as King (vv23-27)

Third point - There are different responses to Saul as King - vv23-27 of chapter 10

[PowerPoint 6-1 Sam 10:23-27]

- The people brought Saul out of the baggage
- Samuel's response - he said - "*There is no one like Saul among all the people*"
- The people's response - they shouted "*Long live the King!*"
- Samuel even gave the people the King's job description in v25 - he gave the people the rights and duties of the king - and even wrote them down on a scroll before the Lord
- Then everyone was dismissed to their homes
- When Saul returned to his home town
- Some scoundrels from his hometown said - "*how can this fellow save us?*" - they despised him and didn't give him a gift

- They basically disrespected God's decision to elect Saul as King
- The same thing happened to Jesus - He wasn't accepted in His hometown either
- Why were Saul and Jesus not respected in their hometown?
 - Well because - the people in their hometown knew them from before - and they can't accept their new found fame and popularity
 - And because there's jealousy - 'how come he's famous - he's supposed to be just like us?'
- The same thing can happen to us - sometimes family or friends - don't always understand our Christian faith - and why we act or behave differently
- Notice Saul's response to the criticism and hatred though - he remained silent
- Jesus did the same - he didn't respond to people hating him and falsely accusing Him - he only responded to truth - not lies. We can learn from that too. We don't have to respond to people attacking or hating us...

There will always be varied responses to God - and to His Son - and to Christianity - we see how that's playing out in the world right now - with the persecution of Christians in Nigeria, China and Sri-Lanka - and even here in Australia - with religious freedom now under threat

Persecution - false accusations - and hateful criticism - can make it very difficult and have us perhaps - feeling tempted to give up...

Saul has been made king and he had a mission

In 1 Samuel 8:16 - Saul's mission was to deliver Israel from the hands of their arch-enemy, the Philistines

It's important that Saul doesn't give up on His mission

He could be tempted to

- If he is overawed by the role and the job description of king
- Or if people are trying to tear him down - tall poppy syndrome

Jesus is Tempted to give up His Mission (Luke 4:1-13)

Which brings us to our NT passage from Luke chapter 4

[PowerPoint 7-Luke 4]

[Please turn there now]

- In Luke 4 - Jesus was tempted by the devil to give up on His mission to do the Father's will - and instead worship the devil
- For 40 days - he was tempted by the devil - and Jesus fasted the whole time
- But Jesus didn't give in to the Devils tempting
- Instead he answered the Devils tempting - each time with God's word - Jesus defeated the Devils tempting with God's Word - how powerful is God's word!
- As the writer of Hebrews says in 4:12 - **For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.**

Applications

[PowerPoint 8-Heading]

So how can we apply -the story of Saul being king - the responses to him becoming King - the mission of King Saul and the mission of King Jesus - how can we apply this to our lives today?

[PowerPoint 8a-App1]

1. First - We need to be careful what we ask God for - God may give us exactly what we asked for?

Some world examples. America asked for Trump - they thought that's what they wanted? How has that turned out?

Britain asked to leave Europe (Brexit) - they thought that's what they wanted? How has that turned out?

We have a Federal Election coming up - we need to be careful what we ask for? We need to be praying for the upcoming election - praying for Godly leaders - who don't lean on their own understanding but let God's Word guide them in all decisions.

In fact, we need to be praying before each decision we make and before we ask God for something? Is what we are asking for - really God's will - be careful what we ask for?

(pause)

[PowerPoint 8b-App2]

2. Second - We need to understand our mission. Saul's mission was to defeat the arch enemy of the Philistines - Jesus' mission was to defeat sin and death.

Saul wasn't clear about his mission.

Jesus was absolutely clear about His mission.

Our mission is to share the good news of Jesus with everyone we come across. Are we clear on our mission? Are we fulfilling our mission? Or are we hiding in the baggage - so to speak?

(pause)

[PowerPoint 8c-App3]

3. Third - We need to be feeding on God's Word daily. According to Deuteronomy 17:18-20, the future King of Israel was supposed to be a godly king - here's what it says -¹⁸ When he [The King] takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the Levitical priests. ¹⁹ It is to be with him, and **he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees** ²⁰ and not consider himself better than his fellow Israelites and turn from the law to the right or to the left.

Saul begins well - but it's important he finishes well. If you know the story of Saul - he doesn't finish well - he fails - because he doesn't follow the specifications for the King - of reading God's Word and following God's law daily.

In contrast - Jesus always followed God's Word - in fact - He is God's Word - He's the walking, talking Word of God. Jesus used God's Word to combat and defeat the devil's temptation.

In the same way that the King was meant to be godly - we are meant to be godly too.

To be godly - we need to meditate and read God's Word daily (we don't miss our meal times - we shouldn't miss our spiritual meals wither - we don't forget to take our medication each day (it keeps us alive) - we shouldn't forget to take our spiritual medication either (it keeps us spiritually alive)

Like the King of Israel - we need to follow God's word and apply it to every part of our lives - and apply it to our hearts

It's God's Word that will protect us from being tempted to sin [[Like applying 10 commandments - or the armour of God - or the fruit of Spirit](#)]

It's God's Word that will protect us from being tempted to give up on our mission - to share our faith

Saul started well - but didn't finish well.

For us - it's not a matter of starting well - it's a matter of finishing well

Friends - let's ask God to make us more like Jesus each day.

Let's feed of God's Word each day.

Let's pray...