

Stay on Course

1 Samuel 10:1-27

November 1, 2009

Intro

As we continue our study through the book of 1 Samuel we come now to chapter 10 where Israel received their first king. At this point in their history, Samuel was recognized as a powerful prophet throughout the nation of Israel. The people of Israel had demanded to have a king so that they could be like the other nations around them. There is a real danger in desiring to be like everyone else in this world. God has called us to be different, to be set apart for him. They also wanted a king so that they could have a man to fight their battles for them.

Samuel then took their request to the Lord. God responded by saying go ahead and give them what they demand, "They have not rejected you, but rather, they have rejected me." There is a great lesson in and of itself; let us never be those who reject God from ruling over us.

We were then introduced to a man of the tribe of Benjamin whose name was Saul who God would select as their king. It's important to see how he is described in verse 2 of chapter 9, "He was a choice and handsome man, there was not a more handsome person than he among the sons of Israel; and from his shoulders and up he was taller than any of the people." In other words, God gave Israel someone that they wanted.

It's also important that we see that God gave Saul everything he needed to become a great king. God started him on course, then, it would be up to him to stay on course. What we will see before our study of Saul is done, however, is that Saul's reign as king would end badly.

There is great personal application for us in this chapter because, as we will see, God gives a calling on our lives as well and gives us everything we need to stay on course.

I. God has Anointed You as Well

- 1 In verse one, Samuel took a flask of oil, poured it on Saul's head, kissed him and said, "Has not the Lord anointed you as ruler over his inheritance?"
- 2 The anointing of oil by Samuel was a representation of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on his life for the purpose of ruling over Israel.
- 3 In the Old Testament, God gave the Holy Spirit to specific people for specific purposes. In this case, God gave the Holy Spirit to Saul for the purpose of ruling Israel.
- 4 "But wait," you might say, "I'm not called to be a king, so why would I be anointed?"
- 5 You have been called to be a son or daughter of God by adoption and that gives you a godly purpose in your life.

A. God strengthens our unbelief

- 6 After Saul has been anointed by Samuel, Samuel then tells him a series of events that would happen to him that day.
- 7 First, he would meet two people who would tell him that his father's lost donkeys had been found and that his father was then concerned for him.
- 8 Then, he would meet three men going up to God at Bethel who would offer him two loaves of bread, which he was to accept from their hand.
- 9 Then, he would come to the hill of God which he would meet a group of prophets who would be prophesying.
- 10 Finally, Samuel told him that the Spirit of the Lord would come upon him mightily and that he would prophesy with them.
- 11 All of these things God did to strengthen his unbelief. You can imagine what transformation would be needed for Saul to begin to comprehend God's call on his life. His unbelief would need to be changed into believing God.
- 12 It reminds me of a man who came to Jesus asking help for his boy who was filled with a demon. The man said to Jesus, "If you can do anything, take pity on us and help us!"

Mark 9:23-24, And Jesus said to him, "If You can?" All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief."

- 13 We can all relate to that man because there are degrees of faith. Though we may believe, we must also certainly want to believe more.
- 14 And God certainly does give us what we need to strengthen our faith.

Romans 10:17, So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

- 15 In a similar way, God tells us in advance what will happen in our day and in our time.
- 16 God told us that in the last days there will be wars and rumors of wars, famine, earthquakes, and pestilence and that as the end draws near, these would increase like birth pangs.

- 17 God told us that there would be the reunification of the old Roman empire as we see with the European Union; that Israel would be back in the land after 2000 years, that the tensions of the world would be in the middle east, that Israel would be for the world a couple of trembling and an unsolvable problem.
- 18 We were told in advance that in the last days men but not endure sound doctrine, that men would be lovers of self, lovers of money, and lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; that they would hold to a form of religion, but denying the power thereof.
- 19 As we see the Word of God being fulfilled in our day, it should also strengthen our faith.
- 20 Staying on course means that we keep faith growing as we walk nearer with the Lord.

1 Timothy 1:18-19, ...fight the good fight, keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.

B. God has life changing power

- 1 Samuel told Saul that the Holy Spirit would come upon him mightily.
- 2 This is the same Holy Spirit that was also promised to the church.

Acts 1:8, "...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

- 3 God gives the Holy Spirit for the purpose of life changing power. It's interesting to see that when the Holy Spirit came upon Saul that he prophesied along with the prophets.
- 4 When Saul was prophesying, more than likely he was declaring the mighty acts of God as the disciples did when they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:11, "...we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God."

- 5 God was touching Saul's heart; that's the beginning of life-changing transformation.

- 6 It was such a radical thing that a new proverb was said in Israel because of it. If anything completely unexpected happened, someone might respond, "Is Saul among the prophets?"

App - Shouldn't the same be said of us? It seems to me, that if God gives transforming power, then people should be amazed at the radical changes in our lives.

Illus –If you make wrong decisions year after year, people who might run into you later would be surprised how you changed for the worse, "Is that you?" just like they were surprised at Naomi's bitterness when she came back from Moab.

But if we walked with God year after year, wouldn't people be amazed at the life changing transformation?

- 7 Doesn't God set us on a course for good, to increase our lives? to make us more like him.

Illus – I remember Chuck Smith telling about a conversation he had with a businessman in China who explained how the rice growers who were Christians were allowed to pass through the inspection line because they refused to add rocks to their rice.

Illus - I also remember an illustration by Ravi Zacharias. If your car broke down in a very bad part of town and a group of burly men came barreling out of a house towards you, would it make any difference if you knew they were all coming from a Bible study?

- 8 God has not left us powerless to transform ourselves. He doesn't say, "Get your act together or I'm going to get really angry."
9 No, he says, "I want you to be a different man and if you open your heart, I will be the power that changes you into that new man."

Ezekiel 36:26, "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."

- 1 The problem of stone is its hardness.

Psalm 37:4, "Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart."

II. Be Changed into Another Man

- 1 In verse six, one of the things that Samuel told Saul was that the Holy Spirit would come upon him and that he would be changed into another man.

- 2 What we see as the rest of the chapter unfolds, however, is that change doesn't happen all at once.

A. Never stop being changed

- 1 The day finally came for the coronation of Israel's new king.
- 2 Samuel gathered Israel together by tribes and the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot. And then the Matrite family was taken, etc., until finally Saul himself was chosen.
- 3 The problem, however, was that at the moment Saul was announced, he was nowhere to be found. They inquired further of the Lord who told them that Saul was hiding himself by the baggage.
- 4 This may at first appear to be humility on Saul's part, but it wasn't humility at all -- it was fear.
- 5 True humility is concerned about others. Insecurity and fear is focused on self.
- 6 It's also possible to have a false humility.

Illus - There are many cultures in the world that have many customs that are based on false humility. Kaveh and I have joked together about some funny examples of what they call "Tarof."

- 7 This is a character flaw in Saul. The question is whether we will allow God to touch our character flaws.
- 8 For Israel, one of the ways that God intended for a king to stay humble all his life was this...

Deuteronomy 17:14-20 The Word brings humility

B. Ask God to touch your heart as well

- 9 after the coronation ceremony, Saul went to his house at Gibeah. But what's interesting, is that in verse 26, it says that valiant men whose hearts God had touched went with him.
- 10 God is still looking for valiant men today whose hearts he can touch. But God will not touch your heart by force, it's something that you must desire.
- 11 It was said of the disciples, "The world has been turned upside down by them." What an awesome thing to have said of us.

12 They were called valiant men because they were men of action. There's an old saying that "Evil prevails when good men do nothing." Spiritual warfare is a reality and victory begins in the heart.

2 Timothy 4:7, I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;