

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 1ST, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

## DECLARED KING (1 SAMUEL 10:17-27) WE NEED REMINDING OF ALL HE HAS DONE

The Lord spoke through Samuel to remind the Israelites all that He had done for them in the past.

- **We should remember what God has done for us. "But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). He sent His son, perfect and sinless, to become sin (2 Corinthians 5:21), freeing us from the "law of sin and death" (Romans 8:2).**

## HISTORICALLY REBELLIOUS AND FORGETFUL

The Lord reminds Israel of their track record of continually rejecting Him, though He has set them free from the oppression of Egypt and other kingdoms.

- We are no different. **God sets us free from the bondage of sin, but as a dog returns to its vomit, we continually return to what was expelled from us (2 Peter 2:22).**

## IS SAUL SHY AND NOT A FAN OF THE ATTENTION?

Samuel gathers all the tribes of Israel, and possibly through the casting of lots, shows that God has given them the king they requested.

- Saul is selected as the chosen king over all of Israel. He is nowhere to be found, so they inquire of the Lord, and Saul is found **"hidden among the supplies."**

## IT SOUNDS GOOD UNTIL REALITY SETS IN

Most likely, Saul's hiding among "stuff" was a sign of his unwillingness to commit to the responsibilities required to be a godly leader.

- Like Saul, many of us may be in love with the idea of leading and being followed by others until the reality of hard work, accountability, and sacrifice kicks in.

## "WHEN HE STOOD AMONG THE PEOPLE..."

Possibly, with a touch of sarcasm, Samuel says to all the people, **"Do you see the one the Lord has chosen? There is no one like him among the entire population."**

- Saul was exactly what they wanted: someone impressive to other nations. **They no longer viewed God as being that impressive or able to stand up against other nations.**

## "LONG LIVE THE KING!"

Without a palace or a capital to go to, Saul simply returned home with a group of **"brave men whose hearts God had touched."**

- Though the majority accepted Saul as king, there were still **"some wicked men" who "despised him."** Saul wisely **"held his peace" (KJV), not letting the negative few rob his peace.**

## YOUR WILL, NOT MINE (LUKE 22:42)

Saul was **chosen, anointed, filled with the Holy Spirit, supported** by a great prophet, **accepted** by many, and **surrounded** by men whose hearts God touched.

- Despite all the advantages given to Saul, and those given to us, **we still have to choose to walk in all that God has given us and not choose to go our own way.**

## PLIGHT OF JABESH (1 SAMUEL 11:1-5) WHO WERE THE AMMONITES?

The Ammonites descended from Abraham's nephew Lot. After incestuous relations with their father, the older daughter had a son named Moab, and **the younger daughter had a son named Ben-Ammi.**

- The Ammonites were **nomads who descended from Ben-Ammi**, named after their capital city, Amman.
- Though closely related to the Israelites, they were mostly **viewed as enemies rather than friends.**
- Solomon was **drawn into idolatry** when he ignored God's warning and married pagan women, including Ammonites (1 Kings 11:1-8). Amos 1:13 says **the Ammonites ripped open pregnant women in the areas they conquered.**

## OUT OF OPTIONS

The Israelites in Jabesh-Gilead were surrounded by Ammonites, and they believed there were only two options: **surrender or be conquered.**

- The men of Jabesh decided **they would rather surrender and serve Nahash than be killed and have their lands plundered.**

## "MAKE A TREATY WITH US, AND WE WILL SERVE YOU."

They requested that Nahash work out the terms of their surrender. Nahash accepted their surrender with one condition: **he would gouge out everyone's right eye.**

- **Men like Nahash elevate themselves by humiliating others.** He wanted Israel to look weak and be **unable to fight effectively** in the future.

## SEARCHING FOR A SAVIOR

The people in Jabesh thought they were out of options and losing an eye was better than losing their lives, so they requested seven days to see if there was anyone to save them.

- The messengers enter Saul's hometown. Saul comes in from the fields and asks why everyone is weeping, so they repeat the news from Jabesh.

## SLAUGHTER AT JABESH (1 SAMUEL 11:6-11) FIRST TEST AS A KING

The time had come for Saul to act as king. When he heard the news from the messengers, **"the Spirit of God suddenly came powerfully on him."**

- **The Holy Spirit empowers, not for entertainment or selfish gain, but to be used by God to touch others (Luke 12:12).**

## "HIS ANGER BURNED FURIOUSLY"

Saul's anger was not sinful (Ephesians 4:26). His anger did not swell up out of hurt or offense. It did not come from a place of selfishness but a **righteous concern for God's people.**

- **Jesus displayed righteous anger or indignation towards sinful behaviors and unmistakable injustices (Matthew 21:12-13; Luke 19:41-44; Mark 3:1-5)**

## CHOPPED OXEN, ANYONE?

Saul sent a message throughout the territory that anyone who did not march behind him and Samuel would be judged, and their livestock would be killed.

- There are sins of *commission* and sins of *omission*. **When the cause is right and the need is desperate, it is wrong to sit back and do nothing.**

## FEAR OF THE LORD FELL ON THE PEOPLE

They knew their king was being moved by God, so 330,000 people united in a time of crisis.

- In a bit of ambiguity, they led Nahash to believe they would surrender the next day. Instead, they prepared for battle and slaughtered all of the Ammonites who surrounded them.

## SAUL ACCEPTED AS KING (1 SAMUEL 11:12-15) SAUL WISELY REFUSES VENGEANCE

Immediately after this great victory was given to them, those who supported Saul wanted to kill all who opposed him previously (10:27).

- When we hate those who oppose us and disagree with us, Jesus essentially says **we have committed murder in our hearts and will be subject to judgment (Matthew 5:21-22).**

## "THEY MADE SAUL KING"

Saul acknowledged **it was the Lord who gave them this victory**, and Samuel tried to bring about unity and **renew the kingship of Saul.**

- **Saul had been anointed and unveiled as the king of Israel, but here, for the first time, he is recognized by the nation as their king.**

## AVOIDING RESPONSIBILITY

- Saul hid among "stuff" to avoid an earthly crown. **Do we hide among "stuff," becoming distracted and unwilling to submit to the responsibilities of someone receiving heavenly crowns?**
- **"Can a person hide in secret places where I cannot see him?... Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" (Jeremiah 23:24)**

## AN ENEMY OF GOD'S PEOPLE

- The name Nahash means "serpent" or "snake."
- Satan cannot do anything without permission. He requires our surrender and intimidates us into it.
- He wants us to be humiliated among the nations and take away our ability to fight effectively.

## THE SAVIOR HAS COME

- The people of Jabesh sent messengers to find someone who was willing to fight for them and free them from the Ammonites.
- If we seek a savior, we will find the Savior (Matthew 7:7).
- He has come to give victory over sin and death to those who submit to His Kingship (1 Peter 2:24).