

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 1ST, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

### REVEALED (1 SAMUEL 10:17-27) SUMMONED

Samuel summons the people to Mizpah... again. This was where Samuel had led the nation in repentance before the Lord, resulting in victory over the Philistines.

- **God has a way of reminding us of His love and care for us when we are at a place of decision. Samuel was hoping for repentance. What will we do?**

### REBUKE

Samuel's speech is awkward for a coronation. He starts declaring God's saving work, but then it becomes a direct rebuke because they rejected God.

- **They had hoped to avoid difficult times by being like the other nations. When we avoid trials by "being like the world", we are rejecting God.**

### PRESENTED BEFORE THE LORD

Samuel called all the tribes to be represented. This usually meant lots would be cast to reveal who would receive God's wrath. This time, it would reveal God's judgment and selection for the king.

- **Sometimes, God's most severe judgment is to permit our sin and its consequences.**

### THEY COULD NOT FIND HIM

The king has been revealed but is nowhere to be found. Saul knew he would be chosen but chose to hide. Some say he was humble, but humility answers God's call. Selfish fear hides from God's call.

- **We may try to grab the reins of our lives and do it our way, but God remains committed to finding and changing us.**

### LONG LIVE THE KING

They found their king, and he was exactly what they were looking for: king-sized. Samuel points out that God had chosen him and reminded them of the rights of kingship.

- **Those rights included guidelines for the king to stay in God's word and close to God. God has given us His guidelines for our lives. Will we keep His commands?**

### OPPOSITION

As Saul went home, God sent specially equipped men with him. At the same time, wicked men spoke out publicly against Saul.

- **Saul was on a mission and would not be distracted by insults and hate. As we live for Christ, why would we expect anything different? How often are we distracted by hate? Are we ready for the real battle?**

### AFFIRMED (1 SAMUEL 11:1-10) PROBLEMS

In this passage, we see Saul's two significant challenges: enemies outside and division within. The Ammonites and Philistines were armed and ready to attack, but Israel was a divided country on the edge of civil war.

- **For a moment, Saul will be the king that Israel needs and the king that follows God.**

### NAHASH

Nahash plans to invade Jabesh and render them unable to fight in the future. Jabesh has just enough resistance to warrant a seven-day hold while they seek help. Nahash sees this as an opportunity for a no-loss victory because Israel is fractured and without leadership.

- **Is this what the church looks like today?**

### MESSENGERS IN GIBEAH

When the people in Gibeah heard what was happening in Jabesh, they all wept aloud. Years before, when Gibeah was attacked and most of their tribe was destroyed, the unmarried women of Jabesh became wives in Gibeah. They were weeping for their families.

- **Saul would come to a decisive moment as king because of this news.**

### A KING'S RESPONSE

Days before, Saul was chasing donkeys; now, he would send pieces of oxen throughout Israel to rally the people. Empowered by the Spirit of God, Saul called the people of God to action.

- **The people would finally be united. What would it take for the church to be united and truly follow Christ?**

### JABESH IS READY

With three hundred and thirty thousand men ready to fight, the men of Jabesh told Nahash to "come and get us."

- **The people were ready for battle now that a king and his army were with them. When God calls us to live for Him, do we remember He is with us? Why are we so afraid?**

### CONFIRMED (1 SAMUEL 11:11-15) ORGANIZED

Saul organized the troops into three divisions and invaded the camp until only individuals were left to escape.

- **In less than 48 hours, Israel went from divided to united and organized. Then, they found victory. Do we think more about how quickly everything can fail than how quickly God can deliver?**

### ADDRESSING DIVISION

After the victory, the people asked Samuel for the names of the dissenters so they could be executed. Saul orders no one to be executed because it wasn't about him.

- **Again, we see God giving leaders perspective when offended. They had rejected God, and Saul offered grace. Where is our grace going?**

### RENEWED KINGSHIP

Samuel calls the people to renew the kingship. This wasn't a re-do but a full confirmation because the nation was now unified.

- **The church will start to impact the culture when it becomes unified under King Jesus. It will be Christ's victory, not ours. There will be no pride, only joy.**

### TRIALS

- Life comes with trials and suffering.
- **If our plan to escape life's difficulties doesn't include God and others, we can expect complications from within and without.**
- **We don't escape life's problems; we face them. We can expect God to work in our lives as we follow Christ.**

### CHALLENGES

- Other people's sin sometimes slows us.
- **Hiding and isolating ourselves from the world will not make problems go away.**
- **The best way to overcome this is to follow Christ as we align with other believers and commit to follow Him together. What are we doing to grow these relationships?**

### SUCCESS

- The world doesn't see success the same way a Believer sees success.
- **When we unite in God's mission, we will gain perspective.**
- **We will rejoice, not because we have won the battle, but because God has delivered us again. How long before we stop hiding and begin to live for Christ?**