

Chronological: A Journey Thru Scripture

Lessons from the Life of Saul

Good morning church, we are in week 14 of our sermon series entitled...

Chronological: A Journey Thru Scripture

I'm going to do another character sketch from our reading...today we will look at the life of King Saul. **I said last week it doesn't matter how you start it matters how you finish. Saul is a classic example.**

Here's the background. The people have decided that they are **not satisfied living under a theocracy** and being ruled by the judges. They wanted to be like the **other nations** surrounding them...they **wanted a king**.

God hears their request and grants them they desire. He tells Samuel to warn the people of the **consequences** of having a king. Their sons and daughters would be **drafted** to work in his kingdom and would not be allowed to return home. But the people cried even louder, give us a king.

Samuel was tasked by God to anoint them a king. Here's where we meet Saul. But who is this young man?

Saul is the **son of Kish a powerful warrior** from the small **tribe of Benjamin**. We are told that he is **handsome** and very tall, **head and shoulders above** everyone.

Unaware that he would be chosen to be the first king of Israel, Saul and his servant are sent on a journey to recovery his father's **lost donkeys**. While on the journey they come into a city seeking Samuel for help. When Samuel sees Saul, **God reveals to him that Saul it to be anointed the king.**

We will pick up here...I want to give you **three lessons we learn from Saul's life, two good and one as a warning.**

1. Humility is Honorable

1 Samuel 9:21 (NKJV) — 21 And Saul answered and said, “Am I not a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then do you speak like this to me?”

1 Samuel 10:20–22 (NKJV) — 20 And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen. **21** When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was chosen. And Saul the son of Kish was chosen. But when they sought him, he could not be found. **22** Therefore they inquired of the Lord further, “Has the man come here yet?” And the Lord answered, “There he is, hidden among the equipment.”

Saul **started** his kingship **with humility**. He didn't even think he was worthy to be king as he came from the **least of the tribes** of Israel and the **least of the families from the tribe of Benjamin**.

I find it humorous that **he hides behind the equipment** when it was time for his coronation. Saul was a humble young man. Unfortunately, later his **humility would give way to pride**, and he would have to be humbled by the Lord.

We need to learn from Saul's mistake. We need to **live in humility**. **Scripture is filled with reminders...like...**

Proverbs 11:2 (NKJV) — 2 When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom.

And the half-brother of our Lord wrote...

James 4:6 (NKJV) — 6 But He gives more grace. Therefore, He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

Humility is Christ-like...

Philippians 2:5–11 (NKJV) — 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, **7** but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. **9** Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, **10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, **11** and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Are you a humble person? Do you reflect the Lord's character of humility?

Saul started with humility but quickly lost the kingdom because of his pride.

Humility is Honorable, secondly...

2. The Spirit's Empowerment is Necessary

1 Samuel 10:6–10 (NKJV) — 6 Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. 7 And let it be, when these signs come to you, that you do as the occasion demands; for God is with you. 8 You shall go down before me to Gilgal; and surely, I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and make sacrifices of peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, till I come to you and show you what you should do." 9 So it was, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, that God gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day. 10 When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

What changed Saul from a timid man hiding behind the equipment into a king? How was it that Saul could prophesy with the other prophets?

The difference and the empowerment came from the Holy Spirit. We are told that the Spirit would come upon him and he would be made into "another man" and God gave him "another heart."

The Holy Spirit's empowerment made the difference!

The same thing happened to the Apostle Peter. Prior to the Holy Spirit's filling he denied the Lord and was among the 120 in the upper room hiding behind closed doors.

But when the Spirit rushed in everything changed. The Spirit empowered Peter and he stood and preached the first Gospel message ever preached and 3,000 souls were saved.

Later when he was standing before the religious leaders he stood boldly and said...

Acts 4:19–21 (NKJV) — **19** But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. **20** For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” **21** So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done.

We cannot live the Christ Life without the Holy Spirit. In our Baptist world we don't speak much of Him but let me tell you friend, without Him you would be **powerless to live for Christ.**

Let me remind you of what He does...

⇒ **He will help us know the truth...**

John 14:26 (NKJV) — **26** But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

⇒ **He will empower us to be witnesses**

Acts 1:8 (NKJV) — **8** But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

⇒ **He will fill us (control)**

Ephesians 5:18 (NKJV) — **18** And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

⇒ **He will guide us into all truth**

John 16:13–15 (NKJV) — **13** However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. **14** He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. **15** All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

⇒ **He will gift us for ministry**

1 Corinthians 12:7–11 (NKJV) — **7** But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: **8** for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, **9** to another faith by the same

Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

⇒ **He will comfort us when we are weak (intercedes for us)**

***Romans 8:26–28 (NKJV) — 26** Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. **27** Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. **28** And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

⇒ **He bears fruit in us (Christlike Character)**

***Galatians 5:22–25 (NKJV) — 22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. **24** And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

Saul and Peter were different because of the **Holy Spirit**, and we too **rely on Him** to live for Christ.

Humility is Honorable
The Spirit's Empowerment is Necessary

Both positive...now I want us to see the **negative from Saul's** life we need to avoid.

3. Disobedience Displeases God

***1 Samuel 15:9–23 (NKJV) — 9** But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed. **10** Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying, **11** "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments." And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the Lord all night. **12** So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal." **13** Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul*

said to him, *“Blessed are you of the Lord! I have performed the commandment of the Lord.”* **14** But Samuel said, *“What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?”* **15** And Saul said, *“They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.”* **16** Then Samuel said to Saul, *“Be quiet! And I will tell you what the Lord said to me last night.”* And he said to him, *“Speak on.”* **17** So Samuel said, *“When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the Lord anoint you king over Israel? **18** Now the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, ‘Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’ **19** Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the Lord?”* **20** And Saul said to Samuel, *“But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. **21** But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.”* **22** So Samuel said: *“Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. **23** For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.”*

Saul's track record wasn't good. Even before this incident he had already rebelled against the **Word of God by offering unlawful sacrifices** which displeased the Lord, you can read about it in **1 Samuel 13**.

Saul once again demonstrated that **his heart was not a heart after God's own heart.** Instead of being obedient, **Saul did things his own way.**

God told him to **“utterly destroy”** the Amalekites and leave nothing alive. Instead, Saul and his men *“speared King Agag, the best sheep, oxen fatlings, the lambs and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them.”*

We **learn a few things about disobedience** from this incident...

- ⇒ **Disobedience is choosing our way over God's way, 9**
- ⇒ Disobedience is personal to God, 10-11
- ⇒ **Disobedience stems from pride, 12**
- ⇒ Disobedience is often spiritualized, 13-15
- ⇒ **Disobedience causes us to pass the blame, 20**
- ⇒ Disobedience will be punished, 23

Samuel reminds Saul that **God delights in obedience over sacrifices...**a theme repeated throughout the bible.

We can come to church week after week, **raise our voices and hands in praise** but if we are walking in disobedience what good is our worship.

An older Christian group sang a song that said...

“Don’t tell me that you love my when the lyrics of your live don’t rhyme.”

That says it all. As **Jesus Followers** we should **live obedient lives**. The Lord **Jesus said...**

John 14:21 (NKJV) — 21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

John says it this way...

2 John 6 (NKJV) — 6 This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.

I realize that we **won’t ever reach perfection** in this life, after all, even Paul expressed grief over sin in his life. However, the question we need to ask ourselves is, **“Am I consistently obedient or am I consistently disobedient?”**

Just because we won’t reach perfection here **doesn’t mean that we abandon any hope of being obedient to the Lord**. If that was true **Paul would have never said...**

Romans 6:1–2 (NKJV) — 1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

We can live obediently before the Lord! And we must make the commitment today and **chose obedience**, it’s a choice.

Paul also said...

Romans 6:13 (NKJV) — 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Saul in his pride continue to live in disobedience before the Lord and it cost him the kingdom and eventually his life.

What is the **cost for us** if we choose to remain disobedient? Let me give you just three...

⇒ **Impacts our prayer life**

Psalm 66:18 (NKJV) — 18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

⇒ **Impacts our fellowship with God and each other**

1 John 1:6–7 (NKJV) — 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

⇒ **Impacts the Holy Spirit's Work in Us**

Ephesians 4:30 (NKJV) — 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 (NKJV) — 19 Do not quench the Spirit.

Plus it impacts...

- ⇒ Our Witness
- ⇒ **Our Joy**
- ⇒ Our Security

We have seen that...

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CONCLUSION:

1. Call to Salvation
2. Call to Obedience