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David In The Court Of King Saul (1 Sam. 16:1-16:23)

Review Of 1 Samuel So Far

- In the Hebrew Bible 1st and 2nd Samuel are one book. Three *major* characters:
 - The Prophet Samuel; King Saul; King David.
- These events take between 1100 B.C. and 1000 B.C.
- What was God doing at this time?
 - Raising up *prophetic ministry, kingly ministry, and priestly ministry*
- First Samuel begins with the birth of Samuel, and Second Samuel ends with King David purchasing the land for the Temple.

God’s Purposes At This Time

God was moving the hearts of the people towards a desire for pure leadership.

- God raised up Samuel, showing us a contrast between a pure priesthood, represented by Samuel, and a wicked priesthood, represented by Eli and his sons.
- The people of Israel themselves were also far from the Lord.
- God was disappointed to see the people give up on their own calling to be a chosen people. So, God gives them a king after their own heart, King Saul.

The Ruin Of Saul’s Ministry

We saw in the career of King Saul many lessons in how to be a **bad** leader.

- Saul was chosen for leadership for carnal reasons.
- He was unprepared, timid, and compromising right from the start.
- When the enemy moved against him in force, he withdrew and protected himself.
- He disregarded the commands of God, even while he himself made new and ridiculous commands to the people.
- He disobeyed, partially obeyed, and he listened to the voice of the people instead of listening to Samuel and to God.
- This resulted in God regretting that He had made Saul king, and Samuel famously tells King Saul that “to obey is better than sacrifice.”

Four Factors That Destroyed Saul’s Ministry

- Greed.
- Seeking honor.
- Rebellion (which Samuel equated with divination).
- Stubbornness (which Samuel equated with iniquity and idolatry).

David Is Anointed (1 Sam. 16:1-13)

1 Now the LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons.”

2 And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.”

But the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ 3 Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you.”

4 So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

5 And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice. 6 So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before Him!"

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

8 So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 10 Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." 11 And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here."

12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

- Recall that David was anointed out of a ram's horn (symbolizing death).
- God is always looking for people with a perfect heart.
- David was not consecrated by man, yet God had already consecrated him.
- Notice especially that even Samuel got caught up in what was plaguing Israel.

- There would follow about 17 years of preparation before David began to rule over just a part of Israel, then seven more years before he would reign over all of Israel.

Saul Is Distressed By A Spirit (1 Sam. 16:14-17)

14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him. 15 And Saul’s servants said to him, “Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. 16 Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well.” 17 So Saul said to his servants, “Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me.”

- What does it mean that the Spirit of the Lord has departed from Saul?
- It’s best to understand this in terms of the special anointing and help that God was giving him as King. Remember that when Saul was first anointed as king, the Spirit had come upon him as well.
- What about a troubling spirit from the Lord? (Or, an evil, or distressing, or harmful, or tormenting spirit.) Can God use evil spirits like this?
- In First Corinthians, there is the case of the man who was excommunicated and Paul delivered him over to Satan, so that even though the man’s body might be destroyed, at least he might be saved.
- It was better for that men to be chastised in that way so that he might be driven to repentance, if possible, rather than to be lost.

- Think about the lengths God will go to keep His children from walking away from Him and making shipwreck of their lives.
- God can (in His Love) use anything to bring judgment or bring correction.
- Jesus said to Peter, *“Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”* (Luke 22:31-32)
- God can never be the author of evil. We know that anything He does is redemptive, so we know that God’s purpose in Saul’s life was to try to cause him to return back to God and seek God’s mercy.
- However, instead of addressing the cause of this chastisement, Saul’s advisers try to get him to work on the symptoms.

David Comes To Saul (1 Sam. 16:18-23)

18 Then one of the servants answered and said, “Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him.”

19 Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, “Send me your son David, who is with the sheep.” 20 And Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by his son David to Saul. 21 So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer. 22 Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, “Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight.”

23 And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.

- David was already an achiever, already a well-known child or teenager. We only learn of his exploits later. Topping off the list is that Yahweh is with David.
- Saul orders Jesse to send him David. He is very taken with David, and so he takes David into the court as his armor bearer.
- As David played, the distressing spirit would leave. Oddly, Saul was using David's playing to help sear his conscience against God's words.
- Religious behavior can become something that we use to drown out God's voice. Religious activities and experiences can help us deceive ourselves.
- Music can also be one more way in which we can hold to a form of godliness but deny its real power.
- If Saul had allowed his tormented mind to drive him to God, or sought Samuel's counsel as to how to seek God, he might have found mercy, and found some measure of restoration until David was ready to assume the throne of Israel.

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