

King Saul – All the King's Men

I. Saul and Samuel

Samuel failed to train his sons, 1 Sm.8

- Gave Israel an excuse . . .
 - They request a king *like other nations*
- Was Samuel so busy with God's work that he neglected his sons? ...no quality time? (7:15-17) ...where was their mother? . . .
 1. Samuel could have learned from Eli, 2:12,22
 2. Samuel could have learned from history – Isaac / Jacob, Gn.34...
 3. Saul's son Jonathan turned out much better than Samuel's sons ! ! ! ! ! !

Two things we can do with others' faults:

¹ **learn to avoid them** [society, majority, friends, entertainment, family...]

² **duplicate them**

Ex.23:2, you shall not follow a crowd to do evil

I. Saul and Samuel

II. Saul and God

Saul is anointed king, 10:1

- To a Hebrew: God's power was infused into the anointed person

¹Priest, Ps.133:2

²King, 1 Sm.9:16; 16:3

³Prophet, Is.61:1

Saul is anointed king, 10:1

- 1 Sm.10:6-11, Holy Spirit gave a novice ability to assume rule...but he had personal accountability to God
 - First test: 1 Sm.11, Nahash
 - Saul received power of Spirit, 11:6-7
 - People recognized him as king, 11:12-15
 - Saul gave Lord full credit for victory, v.13
 - His last time to do so

After this, Saul never recognized
God's rule or authority

1 Sm.13:1-6, war with Philistines

7-9: panic / fear, opposite of faith

Vain to sacrifice to God against God!

- A king without conviction
- Saul took matters into his own hands
 - Ro.10:1-3

10: Saul acts as if all is well (situation ethics)

11-13: *I saw ... I said ... I felt*

- *“I had to do something”*
- *Saul panicked . . . No faith*

Saul's kingdom would not continue (13-14)

- Saul's heart problem prevented a 'Saul dynasty' (contrast 2 Sm.7)
- "But David sinned..."
 - David's heart –
 - Honored God. Not Saul
 - Recognized God as true King
 - Contrite heart. Saul made excuses
 - Loved other people. Not Saul

1 Sm.15, Amalek

- 1 Sm.9:21
 - Saul once spoke with humility
 - Humility did not stand the test of elevation and prosperity

1 Sm.17, Saul's final straw

- David was used to danger (shepherd)
- David had no weapon against Saul
 - David could have killed Saul...twice,
1 Sm.24 / 26

2 Sm.21, Saul and Gibeonites

- Once Saul broke down the authority barrier – safeguard against sin – he was on a downhill slide . . .
 - jealous of David
 - hatred
 - lies to David
 - murder attempts

I. Saul and Samuel

II. Saul and God

III. Saul and Jonathan

1 Sm.14:1...

Jonathan: true faith in God

- 1 Sm.14:2, Saul was sitting...
- 14:6, man of faith
- 14:29, Saul is incompetent
- 14:...45, people rescued Jonathan from Saul
- Jonathan and David: best friends, **1 Sm.18:1**
 1. Protected David from Saul
 2. Rejoiced in David
 3. Knew he would become king

Difference between Jonathan and David

- Jonathan: firstborn son of king
- David: last born son of farmer
 - Love for God and each other
 - Jonathan chose David over Saul, 1 Sm.20

I. Saul and Samuel

II. Saul and God

III. Saul and Jonathan

IV. Saul and David

16:...7-13 – David anointed king

1 Sm.17, David and Goliath

- Who should have slain Goliath?
 - Saul was afraid like others, 11, 24
 - David overcame Goliath by faith in God...
- Ch.7 – when God was king: He fought, Israel chased, Philistines fled
- Ch.8ff. – when Saul is king: Israel flees before battle begins
- David – opposite of Saul in stature and faith

18: it's all about David

- Saul (jealous) heard David's praise, song, 18:8ff.
- Saul offered Merab to David as a trap, 18:17
- Tried to provoke David by giving Merab to another man, 18:19. (Failed – 18:29)
- Finally resorted to direct attack. 19:1

I. Saul and Samuel

II. Saul and God

III. Saul and Jonathan

IV. Saul and David

V. Saul and Lord's Priests

1 Sm.21-22

- Saul: mass murder of Lord's priests...
 - Pride...presumption...passion
- Two times: David has Saul in his sights...
 - 1 Sm.24:6, 10
 - 1 Sm.26:9, 11

But Saul is the LORD'S anointed

David would wait on the LORD'S timing

I. Saul and Samuel

II. Saul and God

III. Saul and Jonathan

IV. Saul and David

V. Saul and Lord's Priests

VI. Saul and the Witch

1 Sm.28, Saul is terrified of war with Philistia

1. Saul's terror – all alone. Wants God. No answer, v.6.
2. Saul's lowest depth of apostasy – witch, v.7
3. Saul's final, terrifying news from Samuel – death, v.15-20

1 Sm.31, Saul's suicide

A glorious beginning ends
in self-inflicted misery

- 2 Sm.21, slaughter of Gibeonites (Josh.9)
- Lesson: Saul – the gift that keeps on giving
- Lesson: be careful what we ask for
- Lesson: Israel wanted a king like other nations
- Pr.19:2, There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the LORD'S counsel – that will stand

Saul – eaten up by jealousy (warning to us)

- Wasted his reign hunting an imaginary enemy – David
- Jonathan illustrates the attitude that Saul could have had
- If we cannot give thanks for the good that others do, we favor the jealousy, anger, hostility of Saul that tears down...
- Jews betrayed Jesus because of envy and jealousy, Mt.27:18; (2 Co.12:20)