

Braveheart

1 Samuel 16:7; 24:11-12, 16-20

Sermon Introduction

Here is Samuel he feels as though, after all his years of faithful services, the people have rejected him (1 Samuel 8:4-9) still pressing forward, at an old age walking everywhere, still pressing forward to execute God's will as the Lord leads (1 Samuel 16:1-7).

- The character traits provided so far:
 - 'Lowliest of men" (Dan. 4:17; 1 Sam. 23:1-14; 30:1-20) – Christ – Samaritan woman, Mary Madeline; Paul in 1 Thessalonians, he is like a mother to them.
 - Peace – Isaiah 9:6-7. Under Saul's leadership the people were not in a good state, they were distressed (1 Sam. 22:1-2).
 - Justice (Psalm 89:14).
 - Commitment to truth (1 Samuel 24:4-7; John 8:44).
- The request for a human king was not in itself improper, for God had promised such a leader (Deut. 17:14-17). But the refusal to wait for God's timing was clearly displeasing to the Lord and to His prophet. In the face of impending conflict with the Ammonites (see 12:12-13) the people wanted a king "such as all the other nations have" (8:5). Even after witnessing the leadership of the Lord in stunning victory over the Philistines at Ebenezer, Israel demanded a fallible, human leader.¹
- 8:1-6. Shortly before 1051 B.C., the year Saul became king (when Samuel was 65-70 years old), the people of Israel, aware of Samuel's advanced age and of the wickedness of his sons (vv. 3, 5) demanded of the prophet that he select a king to rule over them. Samuel's sons, who had been serving as judges at Beersheba in Judah, no doubt reminded Israel of the sons of Eli (2:12, 22). Probably the people were afraid that they might return to the wicked days the nation had known before Samuel had been raised up by the Lord. Samuel's sons, Joel and Abijah were dishonest judges, accepting bribes and perverting, rather than upholding, justice. Samuel, of course, was grieved that they should seek a king, for God, who had redeemed them from Egypt to be His people, was their King.

Sermon Outline

A. Make Your Decision Spirit Driven (1 Samuel 16vs.7):

1. The Lord – Lord indicates that the authority and power of the Lord is being exercised to provide Samuel direction. It is the Lord who established a covenant with His people.

¹Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (1:439). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

- a) This occurs after God rejected Saul who continually disobeyed God (16:1). Samuel proceeds but he is concerned about Saul trying to kill him for anointing David. God told Samuel to take a sacrifice and go and sacrifice the heifer with Jesse (David's father) and his sons. The priest meets him and once they establish that he came in peace they joined him in sacrificing before God.
2. The Lord – The Lord initiates how the decision needs to be made.
 - a) It is the Holy Spirit who gives us the ability to see.
 - When a believer views the Word of God as sufficient (2 Peter 1:3-4) and everlasting (1 Peter 1:22-25) and therefore use it as a guide to make everyday decisions the Spirit of God transforms their character to become like Christ (Romans 12:2; 2 Peter 1:5-8). It is at this point they are no longer short sighted or blind (2 Peter 1:9-11; Romans 9:32-33).
 - Walking in the light (the Word of God; Psalm 119:105; John 1:9; 11:9-10) blesses us to fellowship with Christ so we can see in the midst of darkness.
 3. Said – With Samuel struggling to figure out who to select to be the next king God gave him direction.
 4. Said – God should still be able to influence how we vote at the ballot box.
 5. Do not look at his appearance – Samuel is told to not continuously keep looking at the same qualifications that he used for Saul because this person is not just a warrior (1 Sam. 9:1-2; 10:23-24; especially since this is after the book of Judges). The focus is his Braveheart.
 6. Do not look at his appearance – Samuel continuously focusing on the outward stature of the sons of Jesse must be adjusted because it was the lack of inward spiritual development of Saul that was Saul's downfall.
 - a) Saul did not follow the Levitical law when it came to offering up sacrifices before the Lord (1 Sam. 13:8-12).
 - b) Saul lacked spiritual wisdom to properly lead God's people (1 Sam. 14:24-46).
 - c) Saul did not listen to the spiritual leader, Samuel, that God provided as a spiritual guide for him (1 Sam. 15). Lacking wisdom and not listening is damaging for a leader.
 - d) Not only did he not listen he went to Spiritism to seek advice (1 Sam. 28).
 7. Rejected – The Lord has completed His decision to not associate with Saul. The Lord has decided to totally despise Him.
 8. Man looks - Look (same Greek word) – Man's inspection of another person is in the form of Samuel even though Samuel is a revered man of God. We could be saved, sincere believers of Christ, and still make the wrong decision.

9. Man looks - Look (same Greek word) – The process that human being uses to determine who God's leader is even in the New Testament, it required prayer and fasting (Acts 14:23). It is a spiritual process not physical. It is so deeply spiritual that not even a prophet as revered as Samuel, anointed by God, could not determine who was God's anointed king.
 - a) Even when it comes to selecting pastors, whom the Lord gives to a church, not a church to itself (Ephesians 4:11). It was the laying on of hands by elders (Acts 16:1-5; 1 Tim. 4:14) that led the Apostle Paul to take Timothy. Because just like in the case of Samuel pastors are viewed as angels (messengers; not literal angels) of God (1 Tim. 5:21; Gal. 4:14).
 - b) Again, this is a theocracy not a democracy. God has spiritual purposes for human governments (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-15).
10. The Lord looks - The Lord's process of selection is a meticulous evaluation of an individual's heart – character.
11. Heart – The heart in the scriptures is the 'wellspring of life.' (Proverbs 4:23).
 - a) Heart: The Lord is concerned with man's inner disposition and character (1 Ki. 8:39; 1 Ch. 28:9; Lk. 16:15; Jn. 2:25; Ac. 1:24).
12. Heart – The heart in the scriptures also represents the will of the person and wisdom. God views David's heart to have a sincere desire to obey Him and submit to the Lord's leadership (theocracy) no matter what power or success the Lord provides David (Psalm 119).

B. Confront What is Wrong (1 Samuel 24:11-12): Don't find ways to Justify it.

1. The men of David (vs. 4) – David did not listen to false teaching no matter how right it sounded or how well it may have made him feel, because of all Saul had made him experience. David listened to the will of the Lord and confronted his own sin and did what was right (24:8-15).
2. Now my father see (both sees) – David now commands Saul to inspect what he has in his hands that came from Saul's robe.
 - a) My father: Saul was David's father-in-law (18:27).
 - b) Compared to David's 400 men Saul had brought 3,000 men (1 Sam. 22:1-2; 24:2; 25:13).
3. Hand – The robe being in David's hands means that David was in full control of taking Saul's life.

- a) David demonstrates a great level of humility to know he is anointed king and still faithfully play the harp for the Saul and to also come to Saul and apologize for cutting the hem of his kingly garment.
 - b) The Lord fights the proud but gives grace to humble (1 Sam. 24:8-15; 1 Peter 5:5).
4. Evil – David has no inner desire to violate the standards of God nor do an unethical and immoral act. David had no evil intent while Saul functioned continuously in an evil manner. David proved to be a man of integrity (1 Sam. 24:17-18).
 5. Or rebellion in my hands - David had it in his heart to do what is right in the sight of God which would be to not rebel by attacking God's king. David did not follow his feelings; he chooses to do what is right (1 Sam. 24:4-15).
 6. Though you are lying in wait to take my life – Despite the fact that Saul would have done whatever it takes to kill David it did not mean that David can now have the liberty of rebelling against God (1 Thessalonians 5:14-15).
 7. May the Lord - David refers back to the authority, power and might of the One who is always seeking to have a relationship with His people.
 8. Judge – David wants the One who is Lord and is holy to be the arbitrator between him and Saul, not Saul's men or David's men or even Samuel.
 - a) This story shows us two people: one responding from their fears, bad counsel and being influenced by demons the other is willing to submit to God's will and trust God for the protection He provides. This went on for twelve years.
 - b) David confront the king who had complete authority to do what he wants. David did not try to find ways to justify Saul's behavior.
 9. Judge – David desires peace with Saul.
 - a) David I am sure does not want his parents to have to live some place different because they are afraid of Saul.
 - b) He does not like seeing Israel divided with 400 men following him who have issues with Saul.
 - c) David desires that everything works the way God intended.
 10. May the Lord avenge – David calls on the Lord to punish Saul for what he is doing to him (Romans 12:14-21). David shows on two occasions that he is not vengeful (1 Sam. 24:4-15; chapter 26). This is an important trait because any leader will have enemies even Christ had enemies and He did good everyday He walked the earth.

C. Stand for What is Right (1 Samuel 24:16-20): A Person of Character Represents God's Agenda Better.

1. It came to pass; To be/ Finished speaking - David said to Saul everything he ever wanted to say to Saul who had been trying to kill him for years. David demonstrates again his honesty.
2. It came to pass; To be/ Finished speaking - David does not listen to his men (vs. 4) while Saul listen to his (vs. 9). David listened to God (Col. 2:8-10).
3. Lifted up his voice and wept – He wept aloud: Saul experiences temporary remorse (see 26:21) for his actions against David but quickly reverts to his former determination to kill him (26:2). He seriously lacks integrity.
4. You are more righteous – Saul admits that David has more reverence for God’s will and has a better relationship with God than he does.
 - a) 1,2 Samuel shows how this expectation of the theocratic king is realized in the person of David. Hannah’s prophetic anticipation of a king at the time of the dedication of her son Samuel, who was to be God’s agent for establishing kingship in Israel, is entirely appropriate.
5. You dealt well – Saul admits that David was more surrendered to perform what is practically beneficial and therefore good for the nation of Israel than he was because Saul knew that David was king (24:20).
6. I have dealt wickedly – Saul admits that his actions demonstrate that he lacks the ability to live up to the standards of God so as a result what he does is evil, immoral, and unethical.
7. Have done good – David was completely committed to put out a lot of energy and he demonstrated a greater ethical obligation to do what is pleasant and excellent for God than Saul.
 - a) David prove even to his enemy that he is a man of integrity. A nation needs to believe in its leader because the safety of them and their families depend on it. Also, the military’s safety depends on it.
 - b) David did not seek to do what was good based on what his men said or his frustration having to deal with Saul chasing him for 12 years. David did what was beneficial to God and the Lord’s nation, Israel.
8. Into your hands – God gave a good man a choice. David sought out what was good for God and the country.
9. With good – Saul wishes for David to not just have a harmonious relationship with God but also experience a pleasant, excellent life that is of economic and practical benefit to him.
 - a) Saul recognized that David did what was in harmony to the will of God.

10. What done to me - 'Done to me' portrays that it took a lot of inner energy for David to not do what he really wanted to do. It seems like cutting off Saul's hem was David's struggle to not kill him.

11. Know will be king - David act of kindness to Saul and his warrior ability to kill Goliath is evidence that he is completely ready to be king. God did not just call David, God spent 12 years preparing David to be king and teaching the nation of Israel who was a good king for them.

12. Vow; Swore - Cut off his descendants – Saul requires of David to make a pledge allegiance to him as a result of David's commitment to God that David would not like other kings destroy his family.

- a) David agreed to Saul's requests and kept his promise (2 Sam. 9:1–13; 21:6–8).
- b) David again demonstrates his integrity by not killing Saul's son. He did everything possible to take great care of him (2 Sam. 9).
- c) David demonstrates that he is not vengeful (1 Sam. 25:32).