



Honing in on the Heart!’ Sermon Series

Sermon #31:

‘Two Kings in One Kingdom!’

Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024

Last week in ‘Honing in on the Heart:

- Last week in our Series through 1st Samuel, we looked at and studied, 1st Samuel 16:1-13, as Samuel anointed King David.
 - I preached a sermon entitled ***‘God Sees the Extraordinary in the Ordinary!’***
 - I asked the question: ***Based on this passage, how can I allow God to do the Extraordinary through the ordinary things in my life?***
 - **Point 1: *Move on from the Past.* (V. 1-3)**
 - **Point 2: *Move Towards God’s Plan.* (V. 4-5)**

- **Point 3: *Move Away from People’s Preferences.* (V. 6-10)**
- **Point 4: *Move Yourself Closer to God’s Purpose.* (V. 11-13)**

- Based on last Wednesday’s message, how do you need to let God do the extraordinary in your ordinary life?

‘Two Kings in One Kingdom!’

1st Samuel 16:14-23

Sermon in a Sentence:

What we find happen with two kings in one kingdom to begin with, is a Reckoning on Saul, Relief for Saul and a Relationship for Saul.

Intro:

- Two Kings in one Kingdom. That’s what we find in this evening’s passage of scripture.
 - ***It will not be until 1st Samuel 24, that Saul will realize David is the next King and that the things Samuel told Saul would become reality because of his disobedience.***
 - So for now, there are two kings in one kingdom.
- ***Obviously David is the King in waiting and is so young that he probably doesn’t accurately understand the anointing that had just occurred.***

- But, God in His sovereignty, allows David to work for Saul and live under the same roof as him.
 - ***Obviously Saul doesn't realize yet that David is going to take his place as King. But I find it interesting that God allowed David to live and work in the Saul Administration in Israel.***
 - I think God's Hand is certainly all over this particular text.
 - ***I believe that the Lord wanted David to be exposed to what life was like in Saul's home, so that he would know what not to do.***

- ***Illustration***

- ***There are many examples, especially in sports, of coaches who were assistant coaches who would one day be big time coaches.***
 - I think of the year 2000 how the small Division II school hired two young assistant coaches right out of school who would both go on to be Head Coaches in the SEC.
 - ***Kirby Smart and Will Muschamp.***
- I think of North Carolina Basketball.
 - ***Starting in 1978 North Carolina Men's Basketball had arguably the greatest***

coaches Basketball has ever seen on the same bench.

- Roy Williams and Dean Smith.
- For Carolina fans, I think of how Steve Spurrier had the future head coach of South Carolina on his staff in Shane Beamer. Another Head Coach in Shawn Elliot.
 - For Clemson fans, I think of how Tommy Bowden had the future hall of famer and winningest coach in Clemson history on his staff, in Dabo Swinney.
- ***The point is this, is that we don't become all who God intends for us to be from the very start.***
 - It takes learning, developing and growing. It can be painful and it can be hard.
 - David is going to learn quite a few things from Saul during this time, and just a few chapters away, he'll be running away from Saul for his life.
- ***For now, it's just two kings in one kingdom, but God is up to something and God is always in the details.***
Read 1st Samuel 16:14-23

Question to Ask:

What occurs and develops in this passage as there are two Kings in One Kingdom?

Truth #1: *Reckoning on Saul. (V. 14-15)*

- These verses are certainly some of the most argued and controversial verses in the book of Samuel. Especially among scholars.
 - *The word ‘reckoning’ is defined as a judgment.*
 - God has made his judgment on Saul, and now that the Spirit of the Lord has rushed on to David, it has departed from Saul.
 - *These verses can be confusing, and I will try to explain them. One thing we must be careful to do as **Bible Interpreters is not read these verses with our NT Glasses on.***
 - Which is hard in this case, because we’re used to the theology of the Holy Spirit. Remember, the Holy Spirit doesn’t come and indwell believers until Acts 2.
 - Stephen J. Andrews said *‘The idea that God would plague Saul with an evil Spirit is perplexing to the Christian mind.’*
 - So before we look at this reckoning further, let’s read these two verses:
 - ‘Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him. **15** And Saul's servants said to him,

“Behold now, a harmful spirit from God is tormenting you.’

- *This is the only person in the Old Testament that we are told was tormented by a troubling/evil spirit.*
- But in Judges 9:23 we are told that God sent an evil spirit to Abimelech, but that text doesn’t say it was for the purpose of tormenting like with Saul here.
 - Another clue that this is an unusual condition and circumstance is the fact that the Hebrew Verb **‘Ba’at’** **בָּעַת** *(translated to tormented, means to overwhelm and terrorize) is not used in a narrative framework or clause in the Torah or the prophets.*
 - Robert D. Bergen said *‘the combination of grammatical and lexical features in this clause is rated as the most abnormal in the narrative framework of 1, 2 Samuel.’*
- The use of that different verb ‘Ba’at’ in a narrative framework shows that even the narrator/writer of 1st Samuel found this odd.
 - *We know why the Spirit of the Lord departed Saul, because Saul disobeyed Him and went completely against God.*

- Most of the questions in this text have to do with the Lord sending a harmful spirit to torment him.
 - Let me share with you several truths that I think can uncover the meaning here...
- **#1: *The statement 'the Lord departed from Saul' has nothing to do with the debate of 'if someone can lose their salvation'. (which if you're truly saved, you can't lose your salvation).***
 - Verses 14-15 are not describing the Holy Spirit's role in individual regeneration in the NT sense that most of us think of.
 - ***Instead, we must view it in light of verse 13, and see it as Saul losing the Spirit's empowerment in his life because he refused to do things God's way.***
 - For the rest of Saul's life until he commits suicide he is going to make futile attempts to govern without the power of the Spirit of the Lord in his life.
- **#2: *God Himself does not do evil, but there are times in scriptures where He can direct evil agents to accomplish His purposes.***
 - For example, in Jeremiah 20:4-6, God used the evil nation of Babylon to come in and punish Israel.
 - Another example is when God allowed sinful people to crucify His Son, Jesus Christ.
- ***God does not do evil, but He is omnipotent and He can do whatever He wants to do, that is what happens here with Saul.***
- **#3: *Saul's Tormented state was not an accident or a medical condition.***
 - Some will state that this was an accident, or that the physiological chemical levels in Saul's brain were unbalanced and liberal scholars just call it a mental illness.
 - ***I disagree with that completely and agree with Robert D. Bergen when he said 'It was a supernatural assault by a being sent at the Lord's command, and it was brought on by Saul's disobedience.'***
 - Saul brought this on himself.
- **#4: *God did not send a demon to possess/oppress Saul.***
 - Many scholars believe that God sent a demon to torment and terrorize Saul.
 - While I can see that viewpoint and I understand it, I don't necessarily agree with that.
- ***So, what or who did God send to torment Saul due to his disobedience?***
 - Please know that we can't know the answer to this for sure. I am not telling you what to believe regarding this, but here's what I think.
 - ***Just as God used an angel of judgment in 2nd Kings 19:35 to kill 185,000 assyrian soldiers, I think God sent some***

sort of supernatural being and or an angel to cause Saul constant misery.

- As I mentioned a moment ago, God sent an evil spirit to Abimelech.
 - ‘And God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem, and the leaders of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech,’ Judges 9:23
- God is so much more powerful than we often give Him credit for. I don’t think God would have used a demon to do it when He was capable of creating a being, such as an angel, to do it.
 - ***Whether it was a demon, spirit, angel or other being, one thing is clear: God uses this circumstance to highlight David’s character.***
 - The compare and contrast is very strong from verse 13 and into verse 14.
- Stephen J. Andrews said ***‘The irony is that the newly anointed King came to serve the disobedient and rejected king. Saul’s plight actually created the need for David’s service.’***
 - Through all of this, God had a plan and it was being revealed and unraveled.

Truth #2: *Relief for Saul. (V. 16-18)*

- ‘Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well.’ **17** So Saul said to his servants, “Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me.” **18** One of the young men answered, “Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the LORD is with him.”
- ***Saul was being tormented and he was paying the consequences for disobeying God and going against Him.***
 - So, Saul’s servants suggested that music may give him some relief.
 - ***People today are this way. We love music and it often gives us a break from the stresses of this life!***
 - In the Israelite culture it was normal to have musicians come and play when pain was prevalent in someone's life. 2nd Kings 3:15 is an example of this.
 - In the relief for Saul, I believe there are **2** things to point out.
- ***In this life, we only have temporary relief from pain. (V. 16)***
 - ‘Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful

in playing the lyre, and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well.”

- ***Now, I am not saying that the physical pain you are experiencing or have experienced in your life is because you've disobeyed God and He sent the pain to torment you.***

- That is not what I mean. But what I think we can draw out of this verse, is that pain in this world is a result of sin, and because of that relief is temporary.

- *We may have physical relief for a few days, hours, months or minutes, but pain will come again. In this life, it's temporary.*

- ***For those that are saved, we will have eternity with the Lord, we will be restored and free from all pain.***

- For those who are not saved, the only relief you'll get from pain is the temporary relief you have on this earth right now. If you aren't saved, you'll be in pain forever in hell.

- Physical and emotional pain is hard, but Christian look up, it's not eternal. It's in this life due to the effects of sin.

- ***In this life, the reputation of our walk with the Lord matters. (V. 17-18)***

- ‘So Saul said to his servants, “Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me.”

18 One of the young men answered, “Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the LORD is with him.”

- ***Before they could assemble a search committee and begin having tryouts, a servant spoke up and mentioned David as a good musician.***

- ***Church, this is the hand of God on display and at work.***

- ***But God was able to plant this idea into the mind of the servant because of the reputation that David had.***

- In verse 18, the servant lists out the reputation that David had, and remember, he's still a young man here.

- ***It's never too late for a young person to start building up a reputation for living a life that serves the Lord.***

- ***David's Reputation:***

- Military Man.
 - ‘a man of war,’
- Socially exceptional.
 - ‘prudent in speech’
- Physically appealing.

- ‘and a man of good presence’
 - Gifted with Talent.
 - ‘is skillful in playing’
 - Spiritually Sound.
 - ‘and the LORD is with him.’
- **What a big contrast this is from the reputation and actions of Saul.**
 - When you come to the forefront of someone else’s mind, does the phrase **‘The Lord is with them’** come to their minds?
 - This is what you and I should strive for. No, we aren’t going to be perfect, but we should want to have a reputation that honors the Lord and reflects Him.
- **The phrase the ‘Lord is with him’ but David is in the same company with Isaac, Joseph, Joshua, and Samuel.**
 - I’m not sure what your reputation. What people say, think and maybe don’t say about you.
 - **But let me tell you this, one of the biggest compliments I get as a Pastor is when someone says ‘I started to coming to Church here because I know _____**

goes here, and you can see Jesus all over them.’

- What kind of reputation do you have? Accolades aren’t what we should strive for, it’s a closer walk with Jesus that reflects Him.
 - We’ve seen the reckoning on Saul, relief for him, and now that David comes, there’s a relationship that forms between the two.

Truth #3: A Relationship for Saul. (V. 19-23)

- ‘Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, “Send me David your son, who is with the sheep.” **20** And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread and a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them by David his son to Saul. **21** And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. **22** And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, “Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight.” **23** And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.’
- So as king, Saul sends for David to come and work for him.
 - **We must also remember that neither Saul nor the people with Saul knew what had happened at Jesse’s house when David was anointed King.**

- Jesse complied because we aren't told that he resisted Saul's request for his youngest son.
- I'm sure that Jesse was shocked, just as he was when Samuel anointed him.
 - *Last week we saw that Jesse really didn't even like his son Samuel, because he didn't even invite him into the home when the most important man in Israel was there.*
- Jesse had to hire a shepherd, but he did send his son with provisions.
 - *Wine and a young goat. This would have been for provisions for David's journey or as a gift to Saul. We can't be certain of which it was.*
- I believe there's just one thing to point out here.
- ***Where God puts you, give it your all! (V. 21-23)***
 - 'And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer.'
 - David knows that he has been anointed by God and that he will one day be King of Israel.
 - ***But, David did not undermine or seek to bring down Saul and his kingdom.***
 - ***David was simply faithful with the task that God had put before him.***

- He started out as a musician, and then would be promoted to an armor bearer.
- ***An Armor bearer was to stay close to their master at all times, protect them, and be at their beck and call. An Armor bearer had to be someone who could be trusted.***
 - What started as a part time gig and wasn't always needed, became a trusted friend and confidant for Saul.
- ***Saul would soon make it his life goal to kill David and make his life absolutely terrible.***
 - But David would not seek to harm Saul, he simply served him, tried to love him, and not go against him.
- This is a great example to you and me that faithful leaders of God use our abilities, skills, and talents to serve God and His people no matter how they may treat us.

Conclusion:

- Tonight's message was a little bit shorter, and the text was quite straight forward.
 - ***You may be wondering what it is we can glean from in this text.***
 - ***Two Kings, in one kingdom.***
 - ***One thing I want to leave you with tonight, is make sure there aren't two Kings in your life.***
 - ***For most people the two kings are Jesus and yourself. But, that will not and cannot work.***

- Tonight you may need to realize that following down the path of selfishness such as what Saul showed, is not going to lead to a life of walking with the Lord. Instead it'll lead to running from Him.
 - *In our text tonight the contrast was very strong.*
 - A future king who had a reputation for walking with God, and the current King who wanted to have nothing to do with God. Just simply gave God lip service for external appearance or personal gain.
 - *Tonight as you leave this place, remember that Jesus is to be King of your life and we should imitate Him.*
 - But also, who are you more similar to? Saul or David?
 - *What needs to change in your life so that you either put Christ back as King in your life, do it for the first time, or get yourself off the throne of your life. The choice is yours.*
 - **Truth #1: *Reckoning on Saul.* (V. 14-15)**
 - **Truth #2: *Relief for Saul.* (V. 16-18)**
 - **Truth #3: *A Relationship for Saul.* (V. 19-23)**