

Title: The Heart of Another
Scripture: 1 Samuel 10:1-16
Series: God, the True King!

1. Introduction:

- a. Last week, we spent much time discussing the providence of God as it is made manifest in the lives of ordinary people like you and me. We learned that what appears to be everyday happenstance is God sovereignly using our lives to bring glory to His name.
- b. We also learned that God, in His providence, chooses people like you and me. God uses ordinary people in extraordinary ways. This is God's pattern. Consider Abraham, Moses, the prophets, the disciples, and countless others. Each great man and woman of faith started as ordinary individuals.
- c. This truth, we concluded, should delight our hearts. In our daily living, God is using us in miraculous ways. When you speak to a neighbor, or you pray for the person in the store. When you mother and bless your children, raising them to know and love the Lord. When you unknowingly are heard by a stranger as you sing to God. When in your work life, you show the redemptive power of Christ as amplified by your living. Yes, beloved, God uses ordinary people to do wonderful things and advance His kingdom in their everyday lives.
- d. Today, we continue this thought as we look further into the life of Saul. May God illuminate our very hearts.

2. Verse 1A: The Anointed of God: Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head and kissed him and said, “Has not the LORD anointed you to be prince over his people Israel? And you shall reign over the people of the LORD and you will save them from the hand of their surrounding enemies.

a. With Saul’s servant having left, we now see the private anointing of Saul. Later in this chapter, Samuel will publicly demonstrate that Saul was God’s chosen in casting the lots. But here, the only two privy to what God is doing is Saul.

b. **Oil**: This Oil was the holy anointing oil given in Exodus 30:23-33. It served a double purpose:

- i. It was used in the consecration of the sacred vessels and of the priests. The anointed thing or person was called holy, consecrated, and sanctified to God.
- ii. It also served to equip the person with the power and gifting of the Holy Spirit because the oil represented God’s Spirit being poured out abundantly on the anointed.

1. In essence, we have Saul being separated by God for His service and promised the Holy Spirit to guide him.

c. **Has not the LORD anointed you to be prince over his people Israel?** As God’s agent, Samuel pours the oil and announces that Saul is the Lord’s anointed. Saul is to receive by this anointing a new status in his relation to the Lord. Saul is to be God’s vice-regent.

God's choosing of Saul reveals a couple of truths that we must understand:

- i. Our first truth is that God chooses whom he will. We read, **“Has not the LORD anointed you.”** We see that no man can elevate himself to any position over God's people unless God chooses him first.
- ii. Our second truth is that God's people will always belong to God alone. We read, **“To be prince over his people.”** The people do not belong to Saul. Saul must never think so. The people belong to God. God is their redeemer and savior, and therefore, He is their true king.
 1. Men in ministry must be careful. Parents and Grandparents must be careful. Husbands must be careful. God's people belong only to Him. We are mere vice-regents that God has graciously condescended to use for His glory. We are not to build our kingdom but His. We are to be faithful stewards of His people.
- d. God reminds Saul of this truth repeatedly. We read, **“And you shall reign over the people of the LORD.”** Saul is now appointed to lead or rule over God's estate. God again reminds him that Israel is still the Lord's possession even though Israel has become a monarchy. Saul will be king only under God. And Saul will have to give an account for the people of God.
 - i. Saints, you will also give an account to God for how you have treated God's people. Did you use and abuse the people of God for your kingdom, or did

you serve the people of God, building up His eternal Kingdom? That will be the question on that great day.

3. Verses 1B-9: God's Providence Revisited: And this shall be the sign to you that the LORD has anointed you to be prince over his heritage. (2) When you depart from me today, you will meet two men by Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah, and they will say to you, 'The donkeys that you went to seek are found, and now your father has ceased to care about the donkeys and is anxious about you, saying, "What shall I do about my son?"' (3) Then you shall go on from there farther and come to the oak of Tabor. Three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine. (4) And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall accept from their hand. (5) After that you shall come to Gibeath-elohim, where there is a garrison of the Philistines. And there, as soon as you come to the city, you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre before them, prophesying. (6) Then the Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. (7) Now when these signs meet you, do what your hand finds to do, for God is with you. (8) Then go down before me to Gilgal. And behold, I am coming down to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice peace offerings. Seven

days you shall wait, until I come to you and show you what you shall do.”

a. ***This shall be a sign to you that the LORD has anointed you to be prince over his heritage.***

i. In verse 9, we have this third reminder. God is repeating Himself! Israel, both the people and the Land, belong to God. But what does it mean that the people are **God’s heritage**? The word ‘heritage’ means that which can be inherited. We are an inheritance to God, and He is our inheritance through the finished work of Jesus Christ our Lord. We can understand how God is our inheritance, but it is overwhelming for us to consider ourselves an inheritance to God. Perhaps we see things realistically. We see no value in our natural state. In our natural condition, we are an offense. How could we be of any value to God? Through the matchless name of Jesus, the savior. Our worth is in the value of our redemptive price. God has sent the Son to redeem a people. The Son purchases that people through his death. God has bestowed upon all who come to Him through Christ an incredible worth. We become a valuable treasure through Jesus.

1. **Deuteronomy 4:20** But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day.

a. This is the work of Christ.

2. **Deuteronomy 32:9-10** But the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage. (10)
"He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; he encircled him, he cared for him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.
 3. Saul, like you and I, must be careful with the church of God. We must be careful with God's people because they are precious to Him.
- b. After this private anointing, God graciously gives Saul various signs of His favor. What would happen next would be so extraordinary that it would become evident to Saul that God had chosen him. There would be three signs:
- i. At Rachel's tomb, Saul would first meet two men who would tell him that the lost donkeys had been found.
 - ii. Next, Saul would meet three men on their way to worship at Bethel. These men would recognize the anointing on Saul's life and give him a present of two loaves of bread. They elevate Saul above themselves.
 - iii. Finally, Saul would encounter a group of prophets coming from the worship of God. They would be strumming their instruments and rejoicing in God. At this point, **God, the Holy Spirit, would then rush upon Saul, and Saul would prophesy with the prophets and be turned into another man.**

1. Another man does not mean another person. It implies that Saul would have his life transformed and be made useful as an instrument of God through God's enabling.
 - a. This is the work of redemption in our lives. God equips His people with the power to play a new role in redemptive history.
 - i. **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
 - b. God always equips His saints to do that which he asks of them. We praise God for this truth.
 - i. **2 Corinthians 4:7** But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.
- iv. Beloved, please also notice the specificity of the three events prophesied. Again, we come to the truth of God's sovereignty. We see His providence at work in the lives of His people. Such signs were beyond human understanding. Such details can come only from God, who reigns over all. God assures Saul. The kingship has been granted to him. It is He who has brought Saul to this place and time.
 1. Is this not what God has been saying to us as well. The church of God must understand, every occurrence in our lives, the dramatic and the common, has been orchestrated by God's

providence to bring you and me to this place and time of service to His kingdom. Praise God!

- c. So we read in verse 7 that Saul was authorized to work and do that which God had determined. The Lord has providentially guided Saul's life this far, and from now on, He will be with him more closely through His Spirit and power. The phrase **when these signs meet you, do what your hand finds to do, for God is with you** refers to the specific opportunity which will be provided by the Ammonite attack on Jabesh-Gilead (1Samuel 11:1). Saul will have opportunities to prove himself as the Lord's anointed who rules over his people.
 - i. If providence guides our lives, then let us take every opportunity to further the kingdom of God.
- d. Saul will receive both the power of the Spirit (6-7) and the direction of the Word of God through Samuel (8).
 - i. **Commentary**: Saul, the king, is promised God's power, but he must submit to Samuel, the prophet who brings the Word of the Lord. **"Until I come to you and show you what you shall do."** God's Spirit gives power; but that power is to be exercised in obedience to God's Word. The Spirit and the Word must never be separated!
 - 1. What right do we have to think we can enjoy the Lord's power and presence if we deny His lordship by trampling on His Word.
 - a. Remember, this will be Saul's downfall.
Under the power of the Spirit, he would wage

a great war to liberate the people of God from their enemies. However, he would constantly disobey the Word of God as revealed to him by Samuel. It was this disobedience that disqualified him. We cannot expect to walk in the power of the Spirit while disobeying the Word that the Spirit inspired.

i. **1 Samuel 15:11** “I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments...

ii. **Luke 6:46** “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?

ii. **Commentary**: One cannot help but think this union of Word and Spirit is a word in season for the contemporary church. Many crave dramatic signs of the Spirit’s power but have little enthusiasm for common obedience to the Lord’s Word.

1. The Spirit moves and empowers those that walk in heartfelt, God-enabled, humble obedience.

4. Verse 9: Another heart: When he turned his back to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart. And all these signs came to pass that day.

a. What a wonder we have in the giving of another heart by our God. This is the truth of our salvation. Like Saul, we were about our daily lives, and God orchestrated the events of our ordinary lives to bring a

new heart to an underserved man. Oh, holy God, that has blessed us with such unimaginable grace.

5. Verses 10-13: God's Salvation: When they came to Gibeah, behold, a group of prophets met him, and the Spirit of God rushed upon him, and he prophesied among them. (11) And when all who knew him previously saw how he prophesied with the prophets, the people said to one another, "What has come over the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?" (12) And a man of the place answered, "And who is their father?" Therefore it became a proverb, "Is Saul also among the prophets?" (13) When he had finished prophesying, he came to the high place.

a. We find that the signs prophesied came to pass. God gives us a detailed account of the third sign. Saul takes a place among the prophets. As these men walked, talked, sang, and prophesied, Saul joined them.

b. The people around are flabbergasted. They wonder about Saul, this nobody that seems to be imbued with the Holy Spirit.

i. Brothers, if it is God that saves and grips the heart of men, then He can grip any heart and use it for His glory.

ii. Ordinary people like you and me are most often the ones that God chooses.

1. I remind you of the Word of God in **1**

Corinthians 1:26-27 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not

many were of noble birth. (27) But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

- iii. **Commentary:** Yahweh frequently defies human expectations and gives the most unlikely people all they need to serve Him effectively. So He equips Saul. No matter how unlikely in men's eyes, Yahweh is able to make him able...He may not choose the most natural; instead, he may choose the most unlikely and quip them to do what He wills.

6. Verses 14-16: Concealment: Saul's uncle said to him and to his servant, "Where did you go?" And he said, "To seek the donkeys. And when we saw they were not to be found, we went to Samuel." (15) And Saul's uncle said, "Please tell me what Samuel said to you." (16) And Saul said to his uncle, "He told us plainly that the donkeys had been found." But about the matter of the kingdom, of which Samuel had spoken, he did not tell him anything.

- a. Saul purposely conceals the matter of the kingdom from His family. Why? We do not know. We do know that there was no sin in the decision to keep private God's choosing. After all, he was only anointed king privately and not publicly. Saul would keep the matter between him, Samuel, and God.
- b. Saul has learned that God is actively working, but few see what He is doing. We tend to have blinders to the

overwhelming providential blessings that God bestows in our ordinary lives.

- i. God manages His kingdom in hidden events openly displayed. God is delivering a people, and yet we do not see it or pay attention. We can see the daily occurrences but not God moving through them.
- c. Saul has also learned that God can and often chooses the foolish things to confound the wise. God uses unlikely people. Beloved, here again, consider Jesus Christ. He was the most unlikely of all God's instruments.
 - i. A Jewish baby born to poor parents in a stable would turn out to be the true King of God's people. This is the gospel of our salvation.
- d. Finally, we know that we can see only the surface level (lost donkeys), and that is all. This is why, beloved, you have the Word of God. Our passage beckons us to look deeper and understand that things are not as they appear.
- e. God is moving in redemptive history and is using us to bring all things under His sovereign reign. Beloved, our ordinary lives are anything but ordinary. If God is moving in our lives, then we are special instruments of His grace and sovereignty.

7. Benediction:

- a. **Proverbs 16:3** Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established.

Public Reading of Scripture

Psalm 93