

Title: The Rejected King
Scripture: 1 Samuel 10:17-27
Series: God, the True King!

1. Introduction:

- a. As we studied the providential moving of God’s hand in human events, we learned that all things in our lives are ordained to bring forth glory to God and for the benefit of His people.
- b. The most ordinary Christian can delight to know that God is using their life in the most extraordinary of ways. We are providentially guided to fulfill the good works that God has appointed for each of us.
 - i. **Ephesians 2:10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
- c. Today we consider the needfulness of God’s Word. We will consider the truth that no matter what stage of life we are in or what position we might occupy in this world, the Christian is kept and advanced by God’s Word.

2. Verse 17-19: God’s Relentless Word: Now Samuel called the people together to the LORD at Mizpah. (18) And he said to the people of Israel, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.’ (19) But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your

calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, ‘Set a king over us.’ Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your thousands.”

- a. Our first point of consideration is that God’s Word will never quit nor be defeated in its purpose. God, through His Word, always speaks to the needs of His people. Remember the sin of God’s people as they wanted to substitute a man for God’s sovereign rule over them? Theirs was the sin of idolatry. At the Holy meeting, God once again confronts Israel with their sin and their necessity for repentance.
- b. Samuel begins the meeting by reproving God’s people. We must ask ourselves, why did such a joyous occasion begin with such a negative tone? The hope is that the heart of God’s people would finally see their transgression and that their mouths would confess the terrible sin committed.
- c. Listen to the relentless Word of God as it rebukes the sin of the people once again:
 - i. **I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.’ (19) But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, ‘Set a king over us.**
 1. Did they want a King? God had been their perfect King. No other nation could boast of such privilege.

2. Did they want deliverance? God had delivered them from the hand of Egypt and all other nations.
3. Did they want a savior? God had saved them and promised eternal salvation in the one to come, Jesus Christ.
4. Israel had forgotten all of God's blessing and went after their earthly desire. Like Esau in Genesis, they sold their birthright for a bowl of lentils. They substituted God, their inheritance, for worldly leadership. This is the message of God to them. God confronts them with this great sin to illicit repentance. Only the Word can expose the sin within hearts and lead the humble to repentance.
5. Beloved, I ask myself, how often is it that we set our expectation on man and other things instead of the Eternal and Faithful God? This is the tendency of man that must be defeated as we surrender to God the Holy Spirit.
 - a. As the people of God, we are to serve the only eternal King and God.
6. Amid this joyous occasion, we find Samuel faithful to preach the Word and call Israel unto repentance. He tempers the enthusiasm of the day with a dose of spiritual reality. Why?
 - a. **Commentary:** The truth must come before propriety. The (men of God) know that they must be faithful rather than cordial. If Israel has rejected the God who saves them and has

not...repented of it, can we expect Samuel to smile blandly and croon with outstretched hand...Israel's God loves us too much to be nice. His Word may pursue us relentlessly until we hear it. He may even ruin a nice occasion if it will get our attention and lead us to repentance.

7. As you remember, this was now the second time that Samuel reminded Israel of their sin in demanding a king. He had spoken to them in Chapter 8 and confronted them with their sin there.

a. Beloved, the relentless nature of God will pursue errand Christians with the Word of truth. This is great mercy and the love of God. We read:

i. **Jeremiah 25:3-5** “For twenty-three years, from the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, to this day, the Word of the LORD has come to me, and I have spoken persistently to you, but you have not listened. (4) You have neither listened nor inclined your ears to hear, although the LORD persistently sent to you all his servants the prophets, (5) saying, ‘Turn now, every one of you, from his evil way and evil deeds, and dwell upon the land that the LORD has given to you and your fathers from of old and forever.”

- ii. At this point, we must ask a vital question. Has God ever had to speak to you repeatedly before you have been willing to hear His Word and let go of pride?
 - 1. If so, what does that tell you about God?
 - 2. What does it say about you?

3. Verse 20 and 21A: God's Clear Choice: Then Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot. (21) He brought the tribe of Benjamin near by its clans, and the clan of the Matrites was taken by lot; and Saul the son of Kish was taken by lot.
- a. What God had disclosed privately to Samuel, now He declares publicly to Israel by casting Lots. This is not Samuel's idea; it is God's idea. God chooses Saul to be king.
 - b. From man's view, each tribe had an equal opportunity to the monarchy. But you and I know what they didn't. The decision was sealed long before. God's sovereignty determines what will be.
 - i. **Psalms 75:7** but it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another.
 - ii. So in the casting of the lot, a tribe that would never have been considered is chosen. A clan that was limited in power would be the one that was called to lead.
 - 1. God chooses the foolish things to confound the wise.

4. Verse 21B: Our Tendency to Hide from God: But when they sought him, he could not be found.

a. After the lot had been cast and Saul was chosen, the people could not find the new king. How do you lose a king?

b. Many commentaries on this portion of scripture see an humility in Saul's decision to hide. However, I am not convinced that this is what the verse is conveying.

Here, in my opinion, we get a glimpse of what would eventually be the downfall of Saul's kingdom. Through the Word and accompanying signs, God had privately made it clear to Saul that he would be the first king.

Saul knew this, and yet Saul hides from that which has been perfectly revealed. His reasoning for doing so is not as important as the fact that he hides from God's declared mandate. Saul subtly resists the revealed Word. He would commit this sin repeatedly as king.

i. Each person here today has this very tendency. We often try to hide from God's decrees. We often try to hide from our duty to Him and His kingdom.

ii. We offer up reasons and excuses, but the truth of the matter is, we naturally fight against His divine sovereignty. Oh beloved, be different. Fight, through the Spirit's power present among the saints of God, against the remnant of our sinful nature.

May we ever respond to God's calling and mandates with the words of Isaiah in our very mouths:

1. **Isaiah 6:8** And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

5. Verse 22: Our Absolute Dependence on God: So they inquired again of the LORD, “Is there a man still to come?” and the LORD said, “Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage.”

a. Just like Saul could not find the donkeys, Israel is entirely helpless to find her new king. We ask ourselves,

i. Are the people so dependent on God that He must even disclose to them where they can find Saul? Is this the extent of our dependency on God that He must reveal all to us? The answer, of course, is yes!

1. This is a great truth for our consideration. The people of God are spiritually and physically unable to manage their lives apart from God, even in the simplest of matters. We are not as powerful, wise, put together, intelligent, or strong as we deceive ourselves into thinking. Consider Christ’s words to the church exposing our helplessness:

a. We read that we are helpless to come to Christ for Salvation: **John 6:44** No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

- b. We read that God saved us in our weakness. **Romans 5:6** For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
- c. We read that each Christian is helpless without Christ. **John 15:5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
- d. We read that we cannot engage in meaningful prayer without the Spirit's help. **Romans 8:26** Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

2. This is who we are. Let us admit this truth and cast ourselves upon God's mercy.

6. Verse 23 and 24: Our Natural Desire for Outwardly Qualities: Then they ran and took him from there. And when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward. (24) And Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen? There is none like him among all the people." And all the people shouted, "Long live the king!"
- a. How excited Israel was at this moment. They had a king that was impressive both in size and looks. Even Samuel praises Saul's external beauty, "**Do you see**

him whom the LORD has chosen? There is none like him among all the people.”

- i. Samuel would learn the folly of such thinking. Our Lord would correct him in the choosing of David. God does not see the outward appearance as man does; God sees the heart.
- b. We must remember that the outward appearance (beauty, stature, physique) is not an indicator of the inward person.

7. Verse 25: The Necessity of God’s Law: Then Samuel told the people the rights and duties of the kingship, and he wrote them in a book and laid it up before the LORD. Then Samuel sent all the people away, each one to his home.

- a. God details how the kingship is to be conducted in Israel. God regulates how the king is to conduct himself.
 - i. Beloved, the king’s role was to be strictly submitted to God’s sovereignty. Israel’s king is not a king but a vice-regent, and the king himself is under the Law of God.
 - 1. Saul is not permitted to behave however he would like. He must rule in submission to God’s Law. The Law was normative even on the king.
 - a. Beloved, all God’s people are in Saul’s position; we are a people under God’s Law, and we need to be.
 - i. We know that the Law can never be the standard by which we earn salvation.

1. **Romans 3:20** For by works of the Law, no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the Law comes knowledge of sin.
 - a. Salvation is of grace alone.
 - b. We know that God uses the Law to show us how we fail, but it cannot save us. Only Jesus Christ, the keeper of the Law, can save a sinner. Only Jesus, the one that suffered the law breaker's judgment, can cleanse us of our sin-filth.
2. However, the Law of God is good. We are not to live without God's Law (antinomianism). As a Christian, the Law draws me to the heart of God. It frees me to live a pleasing life to God and abstain from those things that would destroy me. Beloved, we don't keep the Law to earn freedom—that has been God's gift to us; we keep the Law to enjoy freedom and avoid becoming slaves to sin again.
 - a. God's Law, as to the kingship, was not given to destroy the kingship, it was given to allow the kingship to thrive.
 - b. **Commentary**: Therefore, the intent of God's Law is to keep a people free in the purity of life, the holiness of desires, noble speech, absence of bitterness, to maintain balance relationships, spiritual warfare, and concrete compassion. For Christ's people, the Law

should no longer be a dreadful curse but glad obedience.

- i. **Psalms 19:7** The Law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

8. Verse 26 and 27: Our Tendency to Reject the King: Saul also went to his home at Gibeah, and with him went men of valor whose hearts God had touched. (27) But some worthless fellows said, “How can this man save us?” And they despised him and brought him no present. But he held his peace.

- a. Beloved, the king will cause division. Some hailed Saul, and yet others, on their way home, scorned him.
 - i. How could this Benjamite be a savior of God’s people?
 - ii. There were those that **despised** Saul and would bring him no **presents**. In other words, they showed him through their unwillingness that they rejected him as king and savior.
 - iii. Men resent legitimate authority. We find rationalize and justify our willful disobedience to it.
- b. Here we have an analogy to our Lord Jesus Christ. Saul is not some sort of type of Christ but the kingship they share certainly points to Jesus.
 - i. The **worthless fellows** that rejected Saul rejected him as a person but, more importantly, **as the appointed king who will save his people**. They could not see

God's deliverance flowing through the appointed king.

- c. Today, men and women still behave in the same manner. Humanity hates the appointed King of kings. What, after all, can a Jew, executed as a criminal two thousand years ago—what can he do for me today? What does He have to do with how I face the last judgment? My marriage: My fears? My disasters? How can Jesus save us?
 - i. **Luke 12:51** Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.
- d. Although most men reject the person and authority of Christ, it is He that has been appointed the savior of very souls. Although he had no outward beauty (like Saul did), He is the perfect one that came to save sinners by dying in their place as the perfect sacrifice. Inwardly, Christ is the most beautiful, perfect, and excellent deliverer. Jesus is the King that every person needs.
 - i. Let us not, like the worthless men in this passage, reject Him. Let us come to Christ, and bring him our presents. Let us bow before the King of kings.

9. Benediction:

- a. **Ephesians 2:10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Public Reading of Scripture

Psalms 25:8-14