

1 Sam 10:1-16 [14]-SAUL'S ANOINTING

PRELIMS. Israel demands a king. This is a rejection of God as king, but God 'allows' it - in judgment! God has 'used' Saul's searching for donkeys to meet with Samuel whom God has already 'prepared' to 'officially' appoint/anoint Saul as king!

SAUL'S ANOINTING

The very wording of Sam's anointing of Saul suggests that it is a **permissive** appointment rather than an approved appointment of God. "*Has not the Lord....*" yes, He has indeed. "*And this shall be a sign to you...*", it seems as if a sign were really needed to confirm the appointment. The wording seems, at least to me, implies a **less** than full approval. But nevertheless, Saul must be **assured** that God is behind the whole thing. He must accept the kingship, for indeed "*the Lord has anointed you to be prince over His heritage*" [1]. "*prince*" means leader, commander, captain, prince, and has a **civil** association.

Anointing to a position was indicative of **responsibility** and **accountability**. God has appointed **two institutions** in society - the **Church** and **State**. Both now take **oaths** for office! Both have ministers **accountable** to God!

Andrew Melville (Godly Scottish minister) said to King James VI of Scotland "now again I must tell you there are **two** kings and **two** kingdoms in Scotland. There is King James, the lord of this commonwealth, and there is Christ Jesus the king of the Church whose **subject** James VI is, and of whose kingdom he is **not** a king, **nor** a lord, **nor** a head, but a **member**"!

God has also **instituted** the **family**. No kingdom, no church can survive unless the family unit is healthy! The breakdown of the family unit ensures the destruction of the State or denomination God has provided in His Word **direction/instructions** for the ruling of families, kingdoms, churches. His Word tells us how fathers should provide and support their wives and children.

How kings should protect and govern their subjects, and how elders are to minister to and encourage their congregations!

To assure Saul that God is in this appointment, Sam gives him ‘**signs**’ as proof, and Saul being a **Benjamite** and a **covenanted** Israelite, **will find encouragement** in it. ‘Meet 2 men who will tell him about the asses. Then meet 3 men on way to worship at Bethel with ‘materials for sacrificing and will give Saul 2 loaves of bread. Then meet group of prophets with their guitars and “*prophesying*” [5] All the **details** reveal that this prophesy is ‘beyond human foresight’ and obviously comes from God!

The SPIRIT of the LORD

This next part is very difficult – for **everyone**! Many people think that because the Spirit of the Lord came upon Saul he was therefore **regenerate**, a new creature, born again! But no!! The Spirit of the Lord comes on many people who are **not** even among the covenant people of God. Saul **proved** by his **life** that he was no saint of God. By their **fruits** you shall know them!

Yes, he was **blessed** by God and he **was** “*turned into another man*”[6] but not into a “*new man*”! Yes, he was given “*another heart*” but not a “*new heart*”[9]! What we need is a **new** heart and to become **new** people/creatures. Even a **broken** heart is not enough. When you break **stone** into pieces, it only becomes broken pieces of **stone**! People can be **broken** but **unchanged**! People can be broken and **hard** as ever! People can be broken but **not repentant**! Judas! What we need is a heart of **flesh**! We have to be made “*new creatures*” in Christ!

The ‘new’ thing that Saul did was **prophesying**! Nothing more. He became a **better** person (for a while), but eventually showed his real colours! We can get a **better car** - but not a new one! It can have new **features**. **APP** All of us can testify about people we met who **changed** for the better. Something happened to them that affected them deeply and ever after, they were

different. This is not conversion. God **uses events** in time and space to **improve** and **help** all kinds of people to make life easier and better for them. People **learn** lessons from events! There is such a thing as **development/maturity**.

The word prophesying in the Bible means ‘giving a message’. God **enlightens** people, all kinds of people, from time to time, to be a ‘**carrier**’ of truth (and all truth is God’s truth). I would be surprised if everyone of us here this morning was not prophetic and had said something really astounding and timely at one time or another! To do it **regularly** is the thing!!

People can say things, even **without** being **aware** of it, which are liberating and inspiring and informative and instructive! Some people have a **special aptitude** (a gift) in being able to say things in the right way at the right time which can bring great **relief** to many people. **Danger** is, we can be **carried away** in our desire to help (and in pride), and present a message that comes from ourselves instead of being from the truths and teachings of Scripture! Everything said prophetically will be consonant and agreeable with the Word. Our prophetic words will not contradict the Word.

In fact this is what happened to Saul – this is how he came to lose his relationship with God. He **disobeyed** the Word through Sam! Sam told him to **wait** until Sam came to the sacrifice. But Saul was impatient and carried on himself without Sam and sacrificed the offerings at the altar [10:8 & 13:8].

There is also the **school** of the **prophets**! There is little known about them. They were probably a group of young men whom Sam taught on a regular basis. They were **godly** and were known for prophesying true messages from the Lord.

Saul prophesying was obviously a **great surprise** to everyone. He was obviously not a potential candidate! Thus “*Is Saul also among the prophets?*” “That’s a new one to me?” Note that it

was those who “**knew him previously**” that showed surprise and said “*to one another ‘What has come over the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?’*”[11] We base any rumours we hear about people on our previous knowledge of them!

No doubt, as Sam anointed Saul and very likely **warned** him about **fearing the Lord** in his new office, Saul would begin to **favour** and show **approval** of the Church. Just as **politicians**, when addressing a religious group, will ‘turn-on’ the religion and say things they know will ‘go down well’ with audience! Playing to the ‘gallery’. Ministers do it too!!

A man **will** become **very religious** if it **suits** him! If he finds it **beneficial**! Whereas the **saving change** that is **fundamental** to salvation is a work of God deep in the soul that has **everlasting** evidences – and never-ending **lifestyle changes**. Such a person **cannot continue** to live they way they lived before.

Saul it seems **did** have **qualities** that were **admirable**. He did not **boast** about his new appointment! He did the **opposite**, he **concealed** his honour! When his uncle asked him “*Where did you go?*”, he simply replied “*To seek the donkeys and when we saw they were not to be found , we went to see Samuel*”[14]! And then, when further **pressed** “*Please tell me what Samuel said to you*”, Saul told him that Sam revealed the donkeys were found “*But about the matter of the kingdom...he did not tell him anything*”[16] The writer obviously felt this was worth recording! Saul had a measure of **humility** and wisdom!

We will see later that Saul did have **more** excellent qualities **but** they do **not qualify** anyone for **heaven**! “*Except you repent you shall all likewise perish*” + “*without holiness no man shall see the Lord*”! **APP** Do **not** be **discouraged** by the fact that Saul was not one of the Lord’s! Saul did **not seek** Him earnestly. Saul did **not repent**, as we will notice at his death! *God **never** rejects anyone who truly **wishes** to follow Him. God is **longing** to give you salvation – **if you truly desire** it!