

Date: 13.09.2020

Time: 11am

Service taken by: Rev Gavino Fioretti

Reading: 1 Samuel 16

Outline: God chooses David

a) Introduction

1. Samuel

2. Saul

3. David

God chooses David

- Introduction

David becomes the chosen king of Israel in this chapter. The book of Samuel begins with Samuel's family. We see Samuel dedicated to God and through his leadership, revival and blessing came to the people of Israel. But this did not last long. The people wanted a king (in requesting this, they were not only rejecting Samuel, but God Himself). But God granted the people what they desired and gave them a king like the kings of other nations – King Saul became a curse rather than a blessing to the people. God removed Saul from the picture and in this section, we God introduce a new character – David. There is a lot that we can learn about and from Samuel, Saul and David from this section.

1) Samuel

His grief: Samuel grieves over the man who took away his authority. Samuel had every right to be jealous of and angry towards Saul. Instead, we see Samuel grieve over this man who was chosen by God to rule over the people, but who failed so much. Saul should have been an example of obedience to God, but he failed and brought misery. Samuel was concerned about the failings of Saul, knowing that the failings of the leader would lead to the failings of the people. Are we grieved over the sins of other Christians? Are we concerned for the church of Christ and His cause?

His fear: Samuel was afraid of the consequences of obeying God. If he obeyed God, Saul might have killed him. Even great men of God are still but men – their hearts faint and fail like ours do. Jesus was the only perfect man. Any other good man of God is but a picture of Jesus. But God doesn't rebuke Samuel for his fear, and instead He leads him away from danger. Like Samuel, we're weak and so often we're afraid – we fear death, we're imprisoned by the fear of man, we fear the consequences

of following God. It's ok to experience fear, but it's never ok to use fear as an excuse for disobedience.

His obedience: Samuel is an example for us all – he was fearful, but faithful in his obedience of God, even if obedience were to bring danger. He was willing to do all that God commanded – could that be said of us? We're all servants of God, called to do what God commands us to do. He's given us a new heart. We, who have been so blessed by God's grace, should respond with obedience. May we be like Samuel as obedient children of our Heavenly Father.

His thinking: Samuel saw who he thought was the man of God's choosing who would be king, but God said "no" to this man. Samuel shows his human thinking in his judgement – he looked for strength, and height. God looks at the heart. We all look at the appearance, the outside of others and are so easily enthralled by the outer appearance rather than the heart. We content ourselves with what is visible and are aware that we so little know our own hearts at times, let alone the hearts of others. As we examine ourselves, we might find comfort, or content ourselves, with our outward life, but the more we look at our hearts, the less comfort we find – we see our many failings. God knows everything. We might be able to deceive men, but we can't deceive God. It's a fearful thing to be ok in the eyes of men, but not right in the eyes of God. Better to be disapproved of by men and approved by God than the other way round.

2) Saul

He is rejected: Saul was a man who started well in so many ways – he brought the people together and delivered them from enemies. His repeated sins led him to be rejected by God. God never answered Saul's prayers again despite seeking the Lord. Saul was alone in battle. Imagine living life without God's presence, without Him answering your prayers. God withdrew His blessing, approval and Spirit from Saul.

He is feared: Saul was honoured and loved by the people at first, but when God withdrew His presence, he was feared by the people. People trembled and were afraid of him. He was temperamental, unreliable, and unpredictable. The people no longer respected, but feared Saul. Samuel feared Saul. Samuel who prayed for him and grieved over his failings also feared him.

He is tormented: Saul was tormented by God. He received a harmful spirit from God – this is a mysterious divine judgement. God rules over all the spirits and even used Satan to test Job. What a sad trajectory Saul's life had taken. Not only was he rejected by God, but he was tormented.

He is helped: We see the grace of God in how Saul is helped by God. The relief from David playing music came not so much from David, but from God. God didn't deal with Saul as he deserved – even in judgement, He was merciful. He provided Saul with a loyal servant. He shows compassion on one who had disobeyed Him. He didn't punish Saul in a constant, continual way, but gave times of refreshment. Even at times when God's hand might be heavy on us, there is refreshment and renewal in these times. God is gracious and good.

3) David

God's provision: Saul was Israel's provision – through him, God showed His people that what they wanted wasn't good for them. David was God's provision. God, as King, provided a king for Himself, for His people, for His cause – we see in His provision the unity between God and His people. God provided a man for His people that would be good for them, a man after God's own heart.

God's choice: David was the youngest, the weakest in his family. He was not the people's choice, but he was God's choice, God's anointed one.

God's Spirit: The Spirit of God was with David when he was anointed. This had also happened to Saul when he was anointed – he was changed from a timid shy man to a mighty leader. People were aware that God's presence was with David. In the Old Testament, the Spirit of God reveals God's power and presence. We think of spirit as being a lack of material or matter, but instead, it's about the presence of God's power. A spiritual person is not an invisible person, but rather someone equipped and empowered by the Holy Spirit. God equips a person for the service he's called to – he did this for David, for the apostles, for ministers, for His church.

God' Son: We see in David a type of Christ. We see Christ in the person of David. David was God's provision for the people of Israel; Jesus is God's provision for all His people to bring salvation, blessing and restoration. David brought temporal national, military blessing; Jesus brings eternal blessing. Jesus was the chosen, appointed One of God, chosen to save His people, to build His kingdom. Jesus was rejected by men, but chosen by God. David led the people of Israel; Jesus leads all His people. David was filled with the Spirit of God; Jesus was even more filled with the Spirit beyond measure. All Jesus did in His earthly ministry was by the Spirit of God – He was led by the Spirit of God to defeat the devil – Jesus was equipped by the Spirit. Jesus is revealed to us through the person of David.

What grace of God in providing the perfect provision of the all-sufficient Saviour. We're not alone in the Christian walk; God's Spirit is in us, enabling us to be like Christ. We're imperfect like Samuel and Saul, but God has provided for us Jesus, the all-sufficient Saviour.