

1 & 2 Samuel (A Man After God's Own Heart)

God Pursues Saul, Part 2

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1 Samuel 11-13

11:5 Now, behold, Saul was coming from the field behind the oxen. And Saul said, "What is wrong with the people, that they are weeping?" So they told him the news of the men of Jabesh. 6 And the Spirit of God rushed upon Saul when he heard these words, and his anger was greatly kindled. 7 He took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel by the hand of the messengers, saying, "Whoever does not come out after Saul and Samuel, so shall it be done to his oxen!" Then the dread of the Lord fell upon the people, and they came out as one man. 8 When he mustered them at Bezek, the people of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand. 9 And they said to the messengers who had come, "Thus shall you say to the men of Jabesh-gilead: 'Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you shall have salvation.'" When the messengers came and told the men of Jabesh, they were glad. 10 Therefore the men of Jabesh said, "Tomorrow we will give ourselves up to you, and you may do to us whatever seems good to you." 11 And the next day Saul put the people in three companies. And they came into the midst of the camp in the morning watch and struck down the Ammonites until the heat of the day. And those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.

- Spirit of God rushed upon – Even though Saul gets it right in this moment, the Spirit will not abide with him as He does with those who have made Jesus the Lord of their lives. Cf. **John 14:16; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30**

14 Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingdom." 15 So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal. There they sacrificed peace offerings before the Lord, and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

- Saul was already anointed and proclaimed king in 1 Samuel 10:1, 24, 27. This victory over the Ammonites was a testing of Saul's kingship.

12:1 And Samuel said to all Israel, "Behold, I have obeyed your voice in all that you have said to me and have made a king over you. 2 And now, behold, the king walks before you, and I am old and gray; and behold, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my youth until this day. 3 Here I am; testify against me before the Lord and before his anointed.

6 And Samuel said to the people, "The Lord is witness, who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt. 7 Now therefore stand still that I may plead with you before the Lord concerning all the righteous deeds of the Lord that he performed for you and for your fathers.

13 And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, the Lord has set a king over you. 14 If you will fear the Lord and serve him and obey his

voice and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well. 15 But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you and your king.

19 And all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the Lord your God, that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for ourselves a king." 20 And Samuel said to the people, "Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. 21 And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty. 22 For the Lord will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself. 23 Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way. 24 Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. 25 But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king."

- Because of God's constant pursuit, this wrong choice did not permanently remove them from God's plan. Samuel reminds them that if they serve the Lord, God is willing to meet them where they are and bless them.

13:1 Saul lived for one year and then became king, and when he had reigned for two years over Israel, 2 Saul chose three thousand men of Israel. Two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and the hill country of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. The rest of the people he sent home, every man to his tent. 3 Jonathan defeated the garrison of the Philistines that was at Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, "Let the Hebrews hear."

- This was the first "regular" army for Israel. Previously Israel only had a militia that assembled in times of national threat. Now for the first time Israel had a professional army.
- Saul's son, Jonathan, is first mentioned here who would become an incredible military leader.

8 He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him. 9 So Saul said, "Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering. 10 As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came. And Saul went out to meet him and greet him. 11 Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash, 12 I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the favor of the Lord.' So I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering." 13 And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God, with which he commanded you. For then the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you."

- Saul disobeyed Samuel. Second, Saul was not a priest and only priests were to offer sacrifices. Cf. **2 Chronicles 26**
- A man after his own heart – whole-hearted obedience, repentance, dependance on God, worshipper, compassionate, courageous, humility, and a love for God’s word. Saul is antithetical to these characteristics.
- **Romans 13:1-4**
1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, 4 for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.
- Saul is not the leader God wanted for Israel, but God’s pursuit and is evident through their victories in battle. **Regardless of the shortcomings of earthly leaders, whether they be kings, presidents, pastors, or parents, the Lord remains faithful and stands as the ultimate King, the Chief Shepherd, and the perfect Father."**

Discipleship Homework:

Our theme references David being a “man after his [God’s] own heart,” but there are many others listed in 1 and 2 Samuel that God pursues, including Israel.

- Read through chapters 11 through 13 verse by verse this week. What stood out to you? What is hard to understand? Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate truth for your understanding.
- How do the actions and choices of Saul in these chapters contrast with the qualities associated with being a person after God's own heart?
- What does it mean to consider Jesus as the ultimate authority in your life? How do you balance obeying earthly authorities (such as government, employers, or parents) with your commitment to follow Jesus' teachings and commands?
- Have questions about the message or need help with the homework? Please email Pastor Jarrod at jarrod@1116.church.