I Samuel 10-11

Review…

- **Chapter 8-9 – We want a King…**
  - Samuel was old – so appointed his sons to help him judge Israel…
    - But his sons did not have his integrity – they were greedy and accepted bribes…
    - So Israel came to Samuel and demanded that he give them a King…
    - They were no rejecting Samuel – they were rejecting God as their leader!
  - God told Samuel to warn the people…
    - A king would take the best from them / they would be his servants…
    - But Israel insisted – they wanted to be like the rest of the nations around them…
  - Saul was a man from the tribe of Benjamin…
    - He was from a wealth y family – handsome – and taller than anyone in Israel…
    - One day while looking for his father's donkeys – he ended up at the city of Samuel…
    - When Samuel saw him he told Saul – 'on you are all the hopes of Israel'

Called / Anointed by God… (*3 things*)

- **1st – A new heart for Saul… vs. 1-16** Read: I Samuel 10:1-9
  - 1st - Samuel poured a bottle of oil over Saul's head… vs. 1
    - It was a symbolic gesture – signifying God has anointed Saul as King of Israel…
      - Samuel was not making Saul king – he was recognizing God's already had!
      - There is a HUGE difference between being anointed by God / appointed by men…
    - Too often people are just placed in a position – the results can often be disastrous…
      - Just because there is a need - does not mean we are the ones to step up and help...
      - Just because we have certain gifts and abilities - does not mean we are qualified...
      - The question is not who has the most talent - or the best ideas...
      - The question is whom has God called - who has God anointed for a work...
      - The best ideas - the most qualified - can do nothing without the power of God...
      - The worst ideas - the least qualified - cannot fail when God is on their side!
    - If God is the one who calls / anoints a person…
      - Then God is the one who does the work – and He is the one who maintains it…

- **John 15:16** – "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain…"
- In **Acts 14:23 -** Paul returned to the cities where he had preached the Gospel…
- Interestingly - Paul had not appointed elders when he first taught in the cities…
- Paul waited and acknowledged the obvious work that God was doing in them…
- The man with a Bible in his hands teaching the people – must be a pastor…
- The guy who the kids think is a playground – must be a children's leader…
- It is about recognizing God's work - the calling to love and minister to God's people!
- But never be in a rush - **I Timothy 5:22 -** "Do not lay hands on anyone hastily..."
- It is not about appointing a leader - it is about recognizing God's anointing!

○ 2nd - Samuel prophesied over Saul after he anointed him… vs. 2-8

▪ When Saul left he would run into two men near Rachel's tomb…

- They would tell him that the his lost donkeys has been found…
- Now his father Kish was more worried about Saul than the donkeys…
- God did not want Saul to be worried about the past – but focused on the present
- As far as God is concerned we have no past - all our sins are gone in Jesus!
- **Philippians 3:13** - "One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to... Christ Jesus."
- We like to hold onto our past - our mistakes our failures – and it holds us back...
- The one thing we need to do is forget our past - and press on towards Jesus!

▪ From there Saul would meet three men on their way to worship in Bethel…

- They would be carrying 3 goats / 3 loaves of bread / and a jug of wine…
- They would give Saul 2 loves of bread to help him on his journey…
- God did not want Saul to be worried about the future – would God provide…
- Too often we get caught up seeking after things we 'need' in life...
- Yet God has promised to give us everything we 'need' – we do not need to worry!
- **Luke 12:29** – "Do not worry about food… your Father already knows your needs. He will give you all you need from day to day."
- Make sure not to miss the most important thing – a relationship with God…

▪ Then Saul would run into a group of prophets…

- They will be carrying instruments – guitar / tambourine / flute…
- The Sprit of God could come upon Saul – and he would prophesy with them…
- God wanted Saul to be full of the Spirit now – so he could lead Israel!
- **II Corinthians 4:7** – "We have this treasure in jars of clay..."
- If we are full of ourselves - we will not be able to effectively serve the Lord...
- We need to be emptied - pray that God fills us up instead with His the Holy Spirit...
- Then we will have the power of God to live our lives for Jesus!

▪ Finally God would turn Saul into a new man…

- And once these signs took place – Saul was to do whatever he thought best…
- Because then God would be with him – and bless the work of his hands!
- We all know what it is like to fail in life – we have all experienced disappointment…

- Because there are only so many hours in a day – so much energy we have to use…
- And if we waste all our time worried about our past / unsure of our future…
- Then there is nothing left to give to God – no room for the Holy Spirit!
- When we come to realize that we are not defined by our past – we let it go…
- And we come to trust that God will take care of the future – provide for our needs…
- Then we will be free to be filled with the Spirit – power to live our lives for Jesus…
- We will find we are a 'new man' – and everything we do is blessed by God!
- **Psalm 1:3** – "Blessed is the man who delights in the Lord… whatever he does prospers."

- 3rd - The moment Saul left – God changed his heart… vs. 9-17
  - All of the signs came to pass – and Saul prophesied with the prophets…
    - When everyone who knew Saul saw it – they said 'is Saul also a prophet!'
    - They were confused – how could someone like Saul be a prophet of God…
    - Imagine what people would say if the town drunk / taught at church on Sunday…
    - Everyone would ask – 'he is teaching' – what is HE as pastor now!
    - When God gets a hold of our lives – we are NOT the person we used to be…
    - **II Corinthians 5:17** – "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."
    - The problem with those who knew us – remember our mistakes / flaws / and sins...
    - When we tell them about Jesus– they are quick to remind us of them all!
    - What they miss is that all that we were is gone – **Psalms 103:12**
    - We are no longer defined by our past/mistakes – instead by Jesus who is in us!
  - When Saul arrived home – his uncle asked him where he had been…
    - He told him about the lost donkeys – how Samuel told them they were found…
    - But Saul did not mention anything about being anointed King of Israel…
    - I imagine the reason was Saul still had A LOT of doubts himself!
    - One of the hardest things to do – is believe that God can use me…
    - Teach a Bible Study / to share the Gospel / to be a pastor…
    - We look at what God has called us to do – and assume it is impossible!
    - Our problem is we are focused on our ourselves – and we are right we cannot do it...
    - **Luke 18:27** – "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."
    - We just need to get our eyes off ourselves - and put them back onto Jesus

- **2ND – A NEW KING FOR ISRAEL… VS. 17-27** READ: I SAMUEL 10:17-23
  - Samuel called all of Israel together at Mizpah… vs. 17-19
    - God had brought Israel out of the bondage of Egypt – making Israel a nation…
    - God had led them into the Promised Land – conquering all the nations before them…
    - But this day they rejected God – because they had chosen to have a man as their King…
    - Men would much rather look to someone they can touch and see...
    - Therefore they are much more inclined to trust in a man than God...

- The problem is men cannot save us - and even the best of them will fail us!

- God has all of the Tribes stand before Him – and He chose Benjamin… vs. 20-27
  - Out of all the families in Benjamin – the family of Kish was chosen…
    - And from the family – God choose Saul to be the first King of Israel…
    - The purpose for all this ceremony – was to present Saul to the nation…
    - No one had ever heard of this man from Benjamin – God wanted to introduce him…
  - I am sure there was great anticipation on the part of the people…
    - They were expecting a grand entrance – perhaps a royal procession!
    - When Queen Elizabeth was crowned sovereign of the United Kingdom in 1954…
    - The queen was presented in a royal gown 6m long made of silk velvet…
    - 750 commentators broadcast the event in 39 languages to 200 million people!
  - But Saul was no where to be found - he was hiding in the baggage…
    - So the people grabbed Saul - and presented him as the new king of Israel…
    - They went from an all-powerful God – to a man who hides in a suitcase!
    - Some of the people argued – 'how can this man save us' – a reasonable question…
    - And Saul ignored them – likely as not because he agreed with them!
    - We are not the answer people need - we can only point others to the answer…
    - Jesus has no limitations – all the abilities – all the resources – all the power!
    - He is the only answer that we need to give to those who are in need!
    - Our opportunity / responsibility is to be a billboard that says - 'this way to Jesus'!

- **3RD – THE VICTORY AT JABESH… VS. 1-15** READ: I SAMUEL 11:1-6, 11-13
  - About a month later – King Nahash (*snake*) attacked the city of Jabesh… vs. 1-4
    - A town on the eastern side of the Jordan River – far from the protection of Israel…
    - The people of Jabesh asked to make a peace treaty with the King / be friends…
    - He agreed but with one condition – he would gouge out each of their right eyes…
    - When men fought in battle they would hold their shield in their left hand…
    - It would also cover their left eye – so they used their right eye to see their enemy…
    - A soldier without a right eye – was useless as a warrior on the field of battle!
    - The people of Jabesh asked for 7 days to think it over – then sent to Israel for help…
  - Saul was back out in the field working – when he heard the news… vs. 5-9
    - Furious – he took his oxen and cut them into pieces - sent them throughout Israel…
      - 'This is what happens to the oxen of anyone who does not come fight for Jabesh…'
      - The fear of God came on Israel – and they came out – 330,000 fighting men in all.
      - He sent word back to Jabesh that by late morning tomorrow – they would be there!

- There are times when we as believers in Jesus - we should be angry...
  - I was teaching a young adult Bible study a number of years ago…
  - There was a couple that began to attend that had some 'off' doctrine…
  - At first I tried to reach out to them – but they began to confuse the young believers
  - That is when I got upset – you do not hurt / confuse God's sheep!
  - The time to stand up - is when the well being of others is at stake...
  - Not angry at sinners - they need our help - but angry at sin...
  - We need to speak out / take action - because lives are being destroyed!

- The men of Jabesh told King Nahash – they 'agreed' to his terms… vs. 10-15
  - They did not want him to attack early – or leave – they wanted him caught off guard…
    - Saul broke his army up into 3 groups – and attacked in the early morning…
    - They devastated the armies of Nahash – so that no two men were left together!
    - It took a little time – but full of the Sprit – Saul had blossomed into a King!
    - If you plant a corn seed today – you are not going to harvest tomorrow…
    - Often we want to see the good fruit from our efforts right now!
    - When the fruit does not come – disappointed - assuming nothing will happen...
    - But as we forget the past / trust for the future / and are filled with the Spirit...
    - In God's time we will bear great fruit - be used powerfully for the Lord!
    - **Galatians 6:9** – "Do not grow weary while doing good, in due season we'll reap…"
  - The men of Israel demanded to know who it was who had rejected Saul as King…
    - Saul had proven himself in battle – he had proven he could lead Israel…
    - They wanted to take the doubters and put them to death…
    - Saul intervened – God had given them the victory – it was not a day for revenge …
    - Instead they took Saul back to Gilgal and officially crowned him as king!