I Samuel 8-9

Review…

- **Chapter 4-5 – The capture of the Ark of God…**
  - Israel was at war with the Philistines – their arch rival…
    - They came up with the idea – lets take the Ark into battle with us!
    - 40,000 Israelis were killed – Hophni and Phinehas were killed – the Ark captured!
  - The Philistines took the Ark and placed in the temple of their god Dagon…
    - In the morning Dagon was face down before the Ark of God – head and hands cut off!
    - God also sent a plague (*hemorrhoids*) on the city of Ashdod because of the Ark…
- **Chapter 6-7 – Sending the Ark back…**
  - After 7 months of devastation – the Philistines wanted to send the Ark back…
    - They put it on a cart – along with 5 golden hemorrhoids / rats…
    - The cart came to Beth Shemesh – to the Rock in the field of Joshua…
    - But the men of the village looked into the Ark – and 70 of them died!
  - Israel felt God had abandoned them – so Samuel called Israel together at Mizpah…
    - He told them to repent – put away all their foreign gods – and worship the Lord…
    - The Philistines attacked – and God fought for Israel – and gave them the victory!

We want a King… (*3 things*)

- **1st – Looking for a King… vs. 1-9** Read: I Samuel 8:1-9
  - Samuel was old (*perhaps around 60*)… vs. 1-3
    - Appointed his sons as judges – Joel (*Yahweh is God*) and Abijah (*Yahweh is my father*)…
      - Samuel continued to Judge in Ramah (*north*) – his sons in Beersheba (*south*)…
      - The problem was they were not like their father – they were greedy for money…
      - The sons accepted bribes from the people – and perverted justice…
      - **Proverbs 17:23** – "The wicked accept secret bribes to pervert justice."
      - In the PI 100 billion pesos – 13% of the annual budget – is lost to bribes every year!
      - When you avoid the L.T.O. – because you want to keep your cargo…
      - When you do not trust the judge – because he is willing to take a bribe…
      - When a people or a nation – is allowed to receive bribes – there is no justice!
    - Samuel was a Godly man – but his values were not passed on to his children…
      - Just because we love Jesus – is no guarantee our children will follow the Lord…
      - We must hold kids accountable for their actions – teach them right from wrong...
      - Do not be afraid to lovingly punish you children - teach them consequences...
      - **Proverbs 23:13** - "Do not fail to correct your kids. They won't die if you spank them."
      - If we as parents do not teach our kids - they will be ill equipped for the real world!
      - **Hebrews 12:6** -"For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes those he accepts as his children."
      - God teaches us through disciple - not out of anger - but to show His love!
      - Discipline teaches us boundaries - keeps us from things that would harm us!

- Rejecting God as the King… vs. 4-9
  - The leaders of Israel came to Samuel to discuss the problem…
    - They asked Samuel to give them a King to rule over them instead of a judge…
    - Samuel was upset by their request – so he went to the Lord for advice…
    - I am sure to Samuel it felt like they were rejecting him – like he had failed…
    - We are called to warn one another – point each other to Jesus – **Hebrews 3:13**…
    - But we are not responsible for the sins of others – nor are they responsible for ours
    - Everyone will stand before God one day – accountable for their own actions…
    - We cannot blame others for what we have done – others cannot blame us!
  - The Lord told Samuel – they were not rejecting him – they were rejecting God…
    - Israel already had a King – God Almighty – yet they refused to follow their KING...
    - Every since Israel had left Egypt they had rebelled against their King…
    - Even though Israel had a valid concern – the greedy sons of Samuel…
    - Their solution was to run to a man – rather than to God for the answer!
    - In life it is not a question of if we will have problems – but when...
    - When things are not going well –where do we go – what do we do...
    - If we rely and depend on others – then in effect we are rejecting God!

- **2ND – THE COST OF A KING… VS. 10-22** READ: I SAMUEL 8:19-22
  - God told Samuel to warn the people about a King… vs. 10-18
    - If the people wanted a King – the King would take from the people…
      - A king would take their sons – and make them work for him (*army / fields*)…
      - A king would take their daughters – to cook and clean in his houses…
      - A king would take their best – 10% of everything that they owned!
      - In other words they had a choice – but their choice could cost them dearly…
    - Up till then God had appointed Judges over Israel – who served Israel…
      - But if Israel wanted a king – they would become his servants!
      - **Romans 6:16** – "Don't you realize that whatever you choose to obey becomes your master?"
      - In life we are going to be a servant to someone – the question is who…
      - We can choose to trust in this world – and we become a slave to this world…
      - If we run to the world for answers to problems – we are limited to their solutions…
      - If the world says to run to the faith healer because we are sick – we have to go!
      - But if we choose to trust in Jesus – He can do far more than those in this world!
      - **John 8:36** - "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."
    - The day would come when Israel would not want a king…
      - They would come to realize the cost – the difficulties of following a flawed man…
      - But God would not listen to their cries – because they choose their king!
      - God respects our choice – but expects us to live with the consequences…
      - **Galatians 6:7** – "God is not mocked – what a man sows he will also reap…"
      - When we have no money - we want to blame God for not providing...
      - Forgetting that all we foolishly spent on things we did not need...
      - If we choose to run to the world – then we cannot blame God for not helping!

  - Israel wanted to be like the other nations… vs. 19-22

- Israel would not listen to the warning – they wanted a king…
  - Someone to judge them – who would lead them into battle…
  - Sad because God was their perfect Judge – and their absolute confidence in battle...
  - A king would make mistakes – his judgment might be selfish / biased…
  - And there was no guarantee of victory if he led them into battle…
  - But Israel would rather be like the other nations - than to be like God...
- Being a Christian means we are not like those around - we are different...
  - We follow the Word of God - not the opinions of the world…
  - There is always a temptation to want to blend into the crowd – to be accepted...
  - God calls us to be a peculiar people - **I Peter 2:9** - we are not supposed to blend in...
  - If we acted just like the world - why would anyone want to ask us about Jesus...
  - It is because we are different - love / grace / holiness - we should stand out...
  - Giving us the opportunity to tell others about the hope we have in us - **I Peter 3:15**

- **3RD – THE NEW KING OF ISRAEL… VS. 1-27** READ: I SAMUEL 9:1-6, 14-20
  - An impressive résumé… vs. 1-2
    - Saul was a man from the tribe of Benjamin – the son of Kish (*snare*)...
      - Kish was a very wealthy man – so Saul came from an affluent family…
      - Saul was a handsome man / and taller than anyone else in the Land…
      - If you were looking for a King – he seemed to be the perfect choice…
    - Yet in the end Saul turned out to be a wicked King…
      - God would replace him with a poor boy from an unimportant family…
      - Even his Father overlooked him when Samuel came to find the next king…
      - Because God does not look at the outward – God looks at the heart!
    - Often men focus only on the outside - give the appearance of being religious/good...
      - They carry a bigger Bible – have the fanciest clothes – volunteer for the choir...
      - They have their name written in bulletins – or on plaques in the church...
      - They pray long fancy prayers – for what seems like hours – using big words...
      - Giving the appearance of great godliness – but their lives do not match their words
      - God is not impressed by the outside – the Lord looks at the heart – **I Samuel 16:7**
      - No matter how 'good you look' - if the heart is not right - you are still unclean...
      - In contrast - if your heart is right - no matter how the outside looks - you are clean!
      - When we get saved Jesus doesn't clean the outside first - He takes care of the heart
      - Then in time the outside comes to reflect the new life we have on the inside!
  - Meeting with Samuel… vs. 3-18
    - One day some of Kish's donkeys strayed away…
      - Saul was sent out to look for them – but could not find them anywhere…
      - Saul was ready to give up – his father would be worried about him now…
      - When his servant realized they were near where Samuel lived…
      - He suggested they should go and ask the prophet where the donkeys had gone…
      - Saul had not prayed for God to help him – and did not even think to ask the Lord!
      - We tend to think we have an answer - other than Jesus - to our problems...
      - That is why we try everything else first – then as a last resort …
      - We go to the Word / prayer – the only answer that is guaranteed to work!
    - Saul hesitated to go – because they had no gift to give…
      - It was the custom to always bring a gift when you visited a house…

- The servant had a little bit of money he could give – it would be enough…
- My mom always taught me never to go visit someone empty handed…
- That way the person you are going to visit will always be happy to see you!
- Saul was full of excuses to keep him far seeking God – keep him from the Lord…
- People make up all kinds of excuses to justify why they do not go to church…
- They have to work on Sunday - they have nothing to wear / give…
- No matter what the excuse – they do not go because they do not want to!

o Chosen to be the King… vs. 19-27

- Saul met some women at the well – told him there was a festival…
  - Samuel was going to be there to offer a special sacrifice to the Lord…
  - As they came up to the city – Samuel was coming out for the fiesta…
  - The Lord had 'spoke in his ear' the day before – he would meet Saul this day…
  - When Samuel passed Saul (*who he had never met*) God said - 'this is the man!'
  - Saul would be the 'commander' of Israel – saving them from the Philistines…
- Samuel introduced himself – and invited Saul to the fiesta…
  - He told Saul to come along – and he would tell him all that was on his heart…
  - Also he did not need to worry about the donkeys – they were home safe!
  - The suggestion is the donkeys got lost in the first place to get Saul there…
  - Too often in life we end up getting stressed about things happening in our lives…
  - Yet we find God allowed those things to bring us where He wanted us!
- All of the hope of Israel was on Saul – he would be their king…
  - Saul argued with Samuel – he was not fit to be King…
  - Benjamin was the least of all the tribes of Israel – there were very in number…
  - Benjamin had rebelled and gone to war with the other 11 tribes – **Judges 20**…
  - And the family of Saul was the 'least' in all of his tribe…
  - There is a common misconception that God only uses the 'elite'...
  - In order to be used by God you have to have a 4-year degree - PhD in theology...
  - That is the wisdom of men - a worldly idea that has crept into the church...
  - You don't see any Bible colleges or seminaries in the Bible - you just see sinners...
  - A piece of paper on a wall - not matter how pretty - is still just a piece of paper...
  - I know a lot of men who have the 'pastoral degree' - who are not pastors...
  - And I know a lot of men who have no degree - no diplomas - who are pastors!
  - The calling of God - is shown through the work of God through someone's life!
- Samuel took Saul inside to the festival – held in his honor!
  - They table was set and Saul was given the chief seat / the special cut of meat…
  - Saul spent the night there with Samuel – and in the morning they talked…
  - Samuel gave him a special message – instructions from the Word for a king…
  - In **Deuteronomy 17** – God gave instructions for a king who would rule Israel…
  - He had to be a Jew / could not add horses – money – wives / had to know the Bible!
  - Though God does not need us to have a degree - diploma of higher education...
  - That does not mean it is not advantageous for us to be students of the Word!
  - **II Timothy 2:15** - "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."