

Obedience in Chaos

"The world is full of kings and queens who blind your eyes and steal your dreams."

- *Black Sabbath from Oliver Cromwell (Fought against the tyranny of the English crown. Not wrong to want a king. We are just like the children of Israel – we want the wrong king – a lesser king. Clarifying his statement, he said ...)*

"Be wary of those who promise to save you – there is only one Savior."

- *Oliver Cromwell*

When we obey The KING in chaos – He brings life in chaos.

01. A call to obey The KING in chaos – will cause lesser kings to out themselves.

02. When we obey The KING in chaos - He will open our eyes to even more dangerous lesser kings.

03. When we obey The KING in chaos - He grows his life and reign in us and others.

Back Story of Samuel, Saul, David, and the Nation of Israel

- 1440 BC – Moses leads God's people out of Egypt – first time Israel is a nation – as promised Abraham.
- 1400 BC – Moses dies and Joshua takes God's people into the Promise Land – promised to Abraham.
- 7 years later – Canaan and all her kings are mostly conquered. About 20 years later Joshua dies and God gives his people judges to rule over them.
- For 300 years judges ruled over God's people as they cycled in **obedience** to God, The KING, **rebellion** to The KING, **discipline** by God thru other lesser kings and people, and **repentance** turning back to The KING.
- 1050 BC – God's people beg for a king and get Saul. Their desire for a rescuing king is not wrong. It is their desire to find this in a man that is wrong. They didn't want to be ruled by God. They wanted a man. Samuel is told to give them what they want and Saul is chosen king. He is a strong man physically but a weak man spiritually who would fear the people and live to please them far more than he would live to fear God and please God. 2x's he disobeys God because of his fear of the people. 2nd time, God rejects him.
- 1015 BC – God rejects Saul and chooses David to be king. It will be about 15 yrs before David is crowned king over part of Israel & another 7 before all of Israel comes under his rule. Life in Chaos – Part I the first 15 yrs.

01. A call to obey The KING in chaos – will cause lesser kings to out themselves.

1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." 2 And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me."

Samuel had spent his whole life seeking to obey The KING, the LORD God. Truth – he wanted no part of a human king for Israel. **Here, God calls Samuel to obey and crown another king while Saul is alive.**

Samuel's response – *How can I do this? How can I go? Translation – This is crazy! Saul is crazy and he will do anything to keep himself king in my life, this country's life, and Your life God.*

Lesser king #1 outed himself in Samuel's life in God's call to obedience: Saul.

His fear that moved him to say – Lord this won't work, revealed Saul as a real life lesser king in Samuel's life.

2 And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me."

Lesser kings use fear as their main weapon when their rule is threatened.

When threatened, The KING responds with grace – truth and love.

In Samuel's fear, God does not threaten him to get him to obey. He provides hope in truth and love

Truth: 1 ... I have rejected him from being king / I chose and rejected Saul. I did this!

Love: 1 ... I have provided for myself a king / I will take care of you & my people.

Do you see any lesser kings in your life that a call to obedience in chaos has exposed?

Giving - outs Money, security,

Getting connecting – outs safety – fear of being hurt

02. When we obey The KING in chaos – He will open our eyes to even more dangerous "lesser" kings.

1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king

among his sons." Grief is not a bad thing. It is something God encourages us to walk through when we lose someone close to us. *God is not saying – "Really – get over it. Chin up and move on Samantha – we have work to do." No – something else is going on here in Samuel's heart.*

GRIEF is a gift from The KING that draws us to Him and exposes lesser kings.

*For sure Samuel is grieving for God and His people and how they have both been affected by Saul. But God confronts Samuel – not FOR grieving but the extent. God is saying your grief is exposing a competitor to my throne in your heart and I must confront **you** and this "lesser king".*

What is the first thing God said to Samuel in this gracious confrontation? He reminded Samuel, **"I rejected Him – you didn't do this."** What is God saying? What is he after? It could be a lot of things – but we get to find out because of what Samuel does next – **he obeys!**

2 ... And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" 3 And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you."

4 Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem.

Samuel obeys in the midst of chaos in his heart – and God then begins to reveal this even more dangerous lesser king.

4 ... The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" 5 And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

Great fear gripped the elders of the town because Samuel was a judge and a prophet for Israel. Both positions gave him great power over the lives of people – especially people who were living outside of God's law. Their fear may have revealed some hidden guilt – but just as likely it revealed the lowliness of the little town they lived in – Bethlehem. Why would the great Samuel show up in backwards and poor Bethlehem. *(It had a reputation of being a poor, backwards, and insignificant outpost in Judah. Around here that would be like ...)*

Samuel invites the elders and Jesse's sons from this small town to the sacrifice. All are to be ceremonially clean – set apart (consecrated) for the time of worship.

6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

Samuel is sure – the oldest, the most handsome, and the most athletic is God's choice – but it was not. More chaos ensues – but only for Samuel - as God *blows up Samuel's expectations and his self-made formula for why God chooses someone to himself.* Listen to Samuel's words, "SURELY the Lord's anointed is before him."

Confident words – confident he knew God and how he worked. But he was wrong.

We view the outside only – the appearance and abilities. God sees everything – the heart represents it all. Why would God not choose Eliab Samuel had to think? *This floored Samuel – probably even frustrated him. This is a great man to be king – look at him. Why not LORD!?!*

Yet Samuel pressed on ... (Obedience in chaos will always bring glory to God's name and often reveal lesser kings we are living in submission to.)

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 10 And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."

The first seven sons were not God's choice for king. Why? Because God had chosen another – David. *At this point Samuel had to be overwhelmed with fear, anxiety, and wonder. What is God doing!?!?*

11 Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep."

Shepherds were the lowliest of servants. *The youngest could serve this job for the eldest and strongest were needed at other jobs. A shepherd was expendable - anyone could do this.*

And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here."

Samuel presses on and finds one more son. He says – *listen, the feast that comes after the sacrifice will not begin until you send for the youngest.*

12 And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers.

God chose David.

* David was – *from the lowliest of towns in all of Israel and a lowly family.*

* David was – *the last of the brothers and the least of the brothers.*

* David was – *the only one who had not be consecrated (set aside) by man's hands for worship.*

God chose the lowliest of all men, from the lowliest of all towns – to be the greatest in the land.

This is the way of our God. – Taking the low to reveal God, The KING as the greatest of all.

1) God had confronted Samuel about his grief and specifically reminded – *I did this king thing and I chose and rejected Saul. NOT YOU!*

2) Thru His obedience – *he reveals to Saul – you don't know my heart. Why? Because you are worried about your name. Did you mess this up? Will this ever get fixed? What is going on now?*

God chose Saul and David to show – He was the GREATEST and only KING.

His name alone is great.

In Samuel's obedience in chaos – God revealed Samuel's lesser king – the glory of His own name. *And, He revealed that His name alone is worthy of being KING.*

Samuel was worried about his own name, his reputation – for his name was a lesser king God had to open his eyes to.

Samuel did not want to do this act for the LORD from the very beginning because he feared Saul – but even more he feared the loss of his name among the people. *He had built quite a reputation.*

What would have happened if he had got his heart's desire and Saul would have remained king?

1) **The people of Israel would have been led far from holy God.**

2) **The people of Israel would have never received their line of kings by which Jesus would come. It had been prophesied through Jacob – that from Judah (his son) and his line the scepter of Israel would never leave.**

Our lesser kings are not just small issues or problems in our life. They are tyrants that seek to lead us to obey their rule. And their rule only ends in more chaos, destruction and death.

We would never imagine that getting our heart's deepest desires might be the worst thing that can ever happen to us. – Tim Keller

When we obey in chaos – God reveals lesser kings and their deadly ways.

* *All Samuel could see was a king (Saul) that he feared more than The KING he loved and longed to obey.*

* *All Samuel could see was a king (His desire for His name to be great) who could take more than The King who had given him everything.*

But he moved – He was obedient in chaos. **HOW?**

1) **He TRUSTED – that God, The KING was worth obeying. Somehow he believed, trusted what He had in God was better than all he could lose at the hand of Saul or by losing his name.**

2) **The Spirit of God rested on Samuel too and empowered him to trust even when in chaos.**

Obedience in Chaos

1) **We have the Spirit – by Christ's work. He rests on us - empowering us in chaos.**

2) **Trust that what God has given you in Christ is better than what you can lose at the hand of a lesser king.**

In obedience in the midst of chaos – God will reveal your lesser kings that are destructive and deadly. What do you see? Ask others what they see – CG groups, wife, DNA groups. The only way we grow in Christ's life in us – and see real victories over constant sins – is when lesser kings are exposed and dethroned.

03. When we obey The KING in chaos - He grows his life and reign in us and others.

12 And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. *And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.*

When Samuel anointed David – *God showed Samuel His name was the only name worthy to be The KING. Samuel went home to Ramah – and never spoke to Saul again.*

God dethroned Samuel's lesser kings through Samuel's obedience.

God weaves his sovereign plan, his empowering us to obey, and our choice to obey – to dethrone kings that could destroy us and others.

THE LIFE OF GOD – entered the chaos of this scene for all when Samuel anointed David.

When Samuel anointed David – *God's presence affected more than just Samuel.*

* *Samuel had been having a running conversation with God all through this chaos Samuel was in.*

* *When he anoints David, God's Spirit comes rushing upon David.*

Our obedience to The KING in chaos – affects us for sure – God's reign and life grows in us.

Our obedience TO THE KING in chaos – affects others. GOD uses our obedience to affect others because the point of our obedience is to reveal God's name as great and make God's name great.

Samuel was afraid to move at the beginning of this story.

But he did – his obedience God, The KING in chaos – grew his life and reign in Samuel, David, and by extension – all of Israel.

When we obey The KING in chaos – He brings life in chaos.