



THREE KINGS

CREW LEADER GUIDE: THE GAP IS FOR GOD - THREE KINGS PART 2

Message Summary:

Drawing from the life of King Saul in 1 Samuel, we explore the reality of gaps in every believer's life, the space between who we are and who God has called us to be. While Saul was genuinely changed by God internally when he was anointed king, he repeatedly failed to allow God to continue filling the gaps in his sanctification, identity, and ability. The message affirms that gaps are not punishments but necessary classrooms where God reveals more of himself, develops us, and fills what we cannot. The central call is to surrender control, follow God in obedience, and trust that the gap—whether in our faith, our calling, or our character—belongs to God and is best filled by him alone.

Key Points:

- God changed Saul's heart internally when Saul turned and followed, demonstrating that transformation is inward, not outward, and happens as we commit to following God.
- There is always a gap between being changed and being perfected. We are works in progress, and that gap is part of God's ongoing sanctifying work in us.
- Saul's failures stemmed not just from imperfection but from stopping the process of letting God fill the gaps in his identity, ability, and character.
- Hidden insecurities, when left unfilled by God, will lead and ultimately damage us.
- Gaps in our lives are not punishments; they are training grounds and classrooms where God teaches dependence and reveals more of who He is.
- God is by nature a gap filler: Jehovah Jireh, provider, miracle worker, and waymaker.
- The pattern throughout Scripture is consistent: you follow, God fills.
- People can accompany us but cannot fill us. Only God can do that.
- The greatest gap any person faces is the spiritual chasm between sinful humanity and a holy God, which only Christ's sacrifice can bridge

Key Scripture:

- **1 Samuel 9:5-9** -- the account of Samuel anointing Saul and God changing Saul's heart as he turned to follow
- **1 Samuel 13:5-14** -- Saul's first major battle against the Philistines, where he acts presumptuously by offering the sacrifice himself rather than waiting for Samuel
- **1 Samuel 15:24** -- Saul confesses he sinned by fearing the people rather than obeying God
- **1 Samuel 18** -- the people's praise of David over Saul and Saul's jealous response
- **Romans 12:1-2** -- the call not to conform to the world but to be transformed by the renewing of the mind
- **Philippians 1:6** -- God who began a good work will carry it to completion
- **Philippians 3** -- Paul's declaration that he has not yet arrived but presses on toward the goal
- **Ephesians 3:10** -- Believers are God's workmanship, created for good works prepared beforehand
- **Philippians 4** -- God will meet all needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus



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Discussion and Reflection

1. We highlight how God changed Saul's heart as soon as he turned to follow, suggesting that transformation happens in motion rather than in preparation. What areas of your life have you been waiting to feel 'ready' before stepping forward in obedience?
2. The sermon draws a distinction between being 'different' and being 'perfect,' emphasizing that sanctification is an ongoing process. How do you personally navigate the tension between celebrating growth and acknowledging how far you still have to go?
3. King Saul is described as hiding behind the baggage even after being privately anointed, suggesting a deep gap between his calling and his self-perception. In what ways do hidden insecurities prevent you from fully stepping into what God has called you to do?
4. Pastor Ennis notes gaps in our lives are not punishments but classrooms where God teaches us more about who he is. Can you identify a season of uncertainty or insufficiency in your past where you can now see God was developing something in you?
5. Saul's first major failure involved taking control of a situation when God's timing felt too slow, and the circumstances felt too urgent. How do you personally discern the difference between faithful action and faithless control when you are under pressure?
6. The sermon suggests that when God does not fill the gaps in our lives, hidden insecurities will step in to lead us instead. What insecurities have you allowed to drive decisions in your life, and how might surrendering those to God change the outcome?
7. Pastor Ennis contrasts the two men named Saul in Scripture, noting that the Apostle Paul chose to be known by a name meaning 'small or humble' rather than 'asked for.' What does this suggest about the relationship between identity, humility, and effectiveness in God's purposes?
8. The sermon describes halfway obedience as a manifestation of fear and a need to prove ourselves to others. In what areas of your walk with God are you tempted toward partial rather than full obedience, and what is driving that hesitation?

Practical Challenge:

Here are a few ways to help activate key next steps this week:

- **Name Your Gap:** Take some time this week to honestly identify one area of your life where there is a significant gap -- between who you are and who God is calling you to be, between what God has commanded and what your circumstances look like, or between your sense of identity and what God says is true of you. Write it down. Pray over it. Bring it to God and ask him to fill it rather than trying to close it yourself.
- **Practice Waiting:** If you are in a season where you are tempted to take control, choose one specific area this week where you will intentionally wait on God. That might mean pausing before making a decision, spending extra time in prayer before acting, or simply sitting with uncertainty rather than rushing to resolve it.
- **Reflect on a Past Gap:** Think back to a difficult season or a gap you walked through that is now in the rearview mirror. Write down or share with a trusted person what God taught you in that space. Use that reflection to build your trust for the gaps you are currently facing.