

I Samuel 16 – 10 February 2022

“Rerouting: The Way of God’s Choosing”

Introduction

- *I Samuel can be divided into 3 sections
 - *Instigation of earthly kingship (Chap 1-7)
 - *Failure of earthly kingship [Saul] (Chap 8-15)
 - *God’s man chosen & tried (Chap 16-31)
- *II Samuel – depicts the entire reign of King David
- *Saul has just been rejected as king by God for his spiritual blindness & disobedience to God’s simply ways
- *Although Saul will physically reign for rest of book, his spiritual reign has just ended & God has chosen another to take the throne – that of young David
- *The lives of all Israelites are being rerouted
- *Just like with traffic – You set a good course in life, but then someone’s decisions make for tragedy on the road ahead & life gets rerouted
- * We sometimes think falsely that life should just go up & up getting better & better – sometime God need to reroute us – for our own good & His glory

***Today, here's 3 turns on the road of God's choosing & what we should do about it**

1st turn on the road of God's choosing is that He sets the direction (Vs 1-5)

Read Vs 1

1. Saul has been rejected, that road is closed
 - a. Staring at a dead end won't change it
 - b. This alone is a major reason many people don't press into the good things of God
 - c. Read Phil 3:13-14
2. If God is stopping you in one direction, that means there's another opening up
3. Just choose to take the turn towards God's leading in your life
 - a. Read Prov 16:9

Read Vs 2-3

1. "I will show thee what thou shalt do" – ***one step of faith at a time***
2. Let faith overrule your fear of the detour

Read Vs 4-5

1. Samuel feared the Lord more than Saul...so he obeyed and went
2. The people revered Samuel
 - a. Whether you're great or small the challenge & choice of living by faith in God & not fear will always be there
3. This would have blown up the direction of their day for these men of Bethlehem
 - a. They had to choose to go the way of God

2nd turn on the road of God's choosing is that He looks on the heart (Vs 6-14)

Read Vs 6-7

1. Samuel was still looking on the physical power rather than God's power
2. Let it not be a challenge for us to remember
 - a. God can save by many or few (I Sam 14:6)
 - b. God can save by the strong or by the weak
 - c. But He's looking for a heart to serve Him
(Read II Chr 16:9)

Read Vs 8-10

1. Over time, this was sinking in to Samuel – God can choose whomever He sees fit on the inside

Read Vs 11

1. They didn't even think to call David b/c of age
2. Think of how God used young men like Daniel, Joseph of the OT & Timothy
 - a. Young men w/ a heart to bring glory to God

Read Vs 12-13

1. *“Anointed in the midst of his brethren”* - So in mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses, it could be established
2. Spirit of God stayed with David
3. ***This's simply God's choosing – not b/c David was perfect or amazing, but God knew David had a heart that would continually come towards God***
 - a. When he fell down, he would come back
 - b. When he sinned, he repented
 - c. When he struggled, he said God help me

Read Vs 14

1. “*Evil spirit from the Lord*” came to Saul
 - a. This is passive – the evil spirit did the ‘coming’ & it happened in the presence of God
 - b. Once God removed His hand of blessing & His Spirit, all that’s left is to be influenced by demonic spirits
2. Just like Pharaoh in Exo 9:12 - Did God harden Pharaoh’s heart? No!
 - a. Read Exo 8:15, 8:32 & 9:7 - Word used of Pharaoh is H3515 “*to make heavy or weighty*”
 - b. Read Exo Chap 7:3 & 7:13 - Word used of God is H2388 “*to strengthen or make firm*”

Conclude:

1. So what qualified David?
 - a. Young David doesn’t look qualified to be king
 - i. God doesn’t call the qualified, He qualifies the called
 - b. David was called to this b/c he was a man with a heart to seek after God’s own heart

3rd turn on the road of God's choosing is that He establishes our position (Vs 15-23)

Read Vs 15-16

1. Amusing the physical senses isn't the way to handle a spiritual problem
2. This is like not worshiping God yourself but doing thru a proxy (bring godliness thru another)
 - a. Oh the harper's worship will drive away evil
 - b. But Saul should deal w/ his position (alienated from God) directly himself

Read Vs 17-18

1. God prepared David for having a great position as king!
2. He prepared where David lived, prepared that these men would know of him, prepared David musically, prepared David militarily w/ lions
3. But the only position of David's that really matter is how close he is to the Lord
 - a. *"The Lord was with him"*

Read Vs 19-21

1. Jesse shows respect for the king and David takes his new position
 - a. Thru all the positions that David had on earth, they weren't randomly obtained
 - b. ***These aren't positions King Saul put him in***
 - c. ***These are positions King Jesus put him in***
2. Positions are given by the hand of God
 - a. Just like Caesar was God's puppet to bring Mary & Joseph back to Bethlehem for Jesus' birth
 - b. Be content where you are, God put you there

Read Vs 22-23

1. David's godly music did drive away the evil spirit from the room
2. When God fills you and uses you like Saul & then you reject him, your end is worse than if you had never been with the Lord. (Matt 12:43-45)
3. See, Saul is positioned at the edge of hell but can't see it b/c of his kingly position on earth

Conclusion

So, just like with the nation of Israel, there are times that God reroutes a nation or a person. How do we handle it when the Lord starts choosing a path or road for us that we didn't intend?

1. **God set the direction**

- a. Take one step of faith at a time
- b. Accept the detours that God builds in

2. **God looks on the heart to choose servants**

- a. God chooses whom he wills to glorify Him
- b. God doesn't choose perfect people, He chooses willing people who have a heart for Him

3. **God establishes our position**

- a. The position you're in wasn't forced on you by random chance or man's choice
- b. You are where you are b/c God selected you!
- c. Serve Him from where you are
- d. I Pet 5:6 – Humble yourself under the hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time!