

11. Anointed & Proclaimed

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Last Sunday we learned that God chose Saul for the first king of Israel as the people of Israel demanded. The king like Saul was not God's choice, but the people's. They were heading to the problem that caused by their own choice.

This morning we are going to learned that Saul is going to be anointed and proclaimed as the king of Israel in the presence of the all Israelites. From these Scriptures, we are going to learn a few God's principles for our lives.

A. A PRIVATE ANOINTING

1 Sam 9:27-10:1 As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the servant to go on ahead of us." And he went on. "But you stand here awhile, that I may announce to you the word of God." Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said: "Is it not because the Lord has anointed you commander over His inheritance?

This was a literal anointing of Saul. Due to some questionable Christian TV programs, some Christians think anointing as some sweaty evangelists trembling and shouting in the middle of their services. That is not necessarily true anointing. It is much more than that.

What happened to Saul's head and body was simply a picture of what God was doing in him spiritually. The Holy Spirit was being poured out on him, equipping him for the job of being king over Israel.

1) It was a secret anointing:

Because it was not yet the time to reveal Saul as king to the nation. As Christians, our anointing often comes in just such a private way, not in a flashy, public ceremony.

2) It was a memorable and evident anointing:

Because Saul's head was drenched with oil. As Christians, our filling and empowering of the Holy Spirit should be memorable and evident.

3) It was a prophetic anointing:

Because just as Saul was anointed as king, so Jesus is anointed as the King of kings. Jesus is the Messiah (the same word as "Christ"), which means Anointed One.

The anointing of a ruler was actually a religious act. That is why David had such high regard for Saul, referring to lift a hand against "Lord's anointed" (1 Samuel 24:6)

Exodus 30:22-33 tells us about the special anointing oil. It was regarded as a sacred compound that could not be imitated nor used as normal perfuming oil. Since oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit, we see that the Holy Spirit is not poured out to enhance our flesh, but to glorify Jesus. There is to be no place for encouraging a fleshly imitation or operations of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Ex 30:32 It shall not be poured on man's flesh; nor shall you make any other like it, according to its composition. It is holy, and it shall be holy to you.

It was a sign of Samuel's personal support of Saul. It was important that the first king of Israel feel the support of the man of God.

B. THREE PROPHECIES AND ONE COMMAND

Let's draw three analogies from the following prophecies regarding Saul:

The call of God for individual requires three things - the Father's care and love, the constant communion (Koinonia) with the Son and the anointing of the Holy Spirit

1) The First Prophecy - The Father's Care

1 Sam 10:2 When you have departed from me today, you will find two men by Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say to you, 'The donkeys which you went to look for have been found. And now your father has ceased caring about the donkeys and is worrying about you, saying, "What shall I do about my son?"'

The call of God starts at the love of the Father for the individual.

2) The Second Prophecy - The Constant Communion (Koinonia) with the Son

1 Sam 10:3-4 Then you shall go on forward from there and come to the terebinth tree of Tabor. There three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine. And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall receive from their hands.

The call of God should be based on the constant communion which is close relationship with the Son Jesus Christ.

For your information, terebinth tree is normally known as oak or elm tree. And Bethel is 'the House of God' in Hebrew.

For stranger to offer Saul two loaves of bread would have been a remarkable sign. Their bread would have been for use in the worship of God. For them, giving the bread to Saul substituted for a sacred act.

3) The Third Prophecy - The Anointing of the Holy Spirit

1 Sam 10:5-7 After that you shall come to the hill of God where the Philistine garrison is. And it will happen, when you have come there to the city, that you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with a stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute, and a harp before them; and they will be prophesying. Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. And let it be, when these signs come to you, that you do as the occasion demands; for God is with you.

The call of God is confirmed with the anointing of the Holy Spirit throughout the ministry. If God is in the ministry of the individual, God will provide what the ministry needs and bring forth the power and diligence to get the job done. That does not mean that we do nothing. We work, but we work with the power of the Holy Spirit, not by our power.

Zech 4:6 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts.

"be turned into another man" may mean spiritual regeneration or a marked advance in spiritual growth.

4) A Command for Saul - Hurry Up and Wait

1 Sam 10:8 You shall go down before me to Gilgal; and surely I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and make sacrifices of peace offerings.

Seven days you shall wait, till I come to you and show you what you should do."

By the nature of their office, kings do not wait for anybody. Others wait for them. But Samuel commands Saul to wait for him, because the prophet of God had more real authority than this king over Israel! Failing to wait for Samuel will get Saul into trouble on a future occasion.

Somehow we think that this command is for Saul to go down to Gilgal and wait for Samuel to show up in a week from the day Saul was anointed. That is because we have the western mindsets that think everything in back to back chronological order. If we look at the chapter 13, there is a year gap in between Samuel's command and fulfillment.

C. THE PROPHECIES FULFILLED

1 Sam 10:9-13 So it was, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, that God gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day. When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them. And it happened, when all who knew him formerly saw that he indeed prophesied among the prophets, that the people said to one another, "What is this that has come upon the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?" Then a man from there answered and said, "But who is their father?" Therefore it became a proverb: "Is Saul also among the prophets?" And when he had finished prophesying, he went to the high place.

"God gave him another heart" – This does not mean that Saul got a set of stereo heart. In Hebrew this expression literally means, "God changed him for another heart."

D. ME, A KING?

1 Sam 10:14-16 Then Saul's uncle said to him and his servant, "Where did you go?" So he said, "To look for the donkeys. When we saw that they were nowhere to be found, we went to Samuel." And Saul's uncle said, "Tell me, please, what Samuel said to you." So Saul said to his uncle, "He told us plainly that the donkeys had been found." But about the matter of the kingdom, he did not tell him what Samuel had said.

Some people think that Saul was humble to keep the anointing by Samuel and the fulfillment of the prophecies in his heart instead of bragging to everyone around him. Saul didn't go around passing his color 8 by 10 glossy autographed photos with a phrase, "I am your King and you're not."

When his uncle noticed Saul's sleek oily hair and asked him, "Que paso?" and Saul said, "Nada!" I don't call being anointed as a king of the nation and being fulfilled all the prophecies regarding him exactly "Nada." I see Saul as the one who is taking God's call fearful and awkward to tell others what God is about to do through him, since we don't see his good relationship with God from the beginning.

The same thing with us. We don't need to brag around about the call of God, but we don't need to hide it either unless we are told to keep it quiet.

E. PROCLAMATION OF THE KING OF ISRAEL

1 Sam 10:17-19 Then Samuel called the people together to the Lord at Mizpah, and said to the children of Israel, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel:

'I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all kingdoms and from those who oppressed you.' But you have today rejected your God, who Himself saved you from all your adversities and your tribulations; and you have said to Him, 'No, set a king over us!' Now therefore, present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and by your clans."

God is reminding Israel that He was still more than qualified to be their King, and their rejection of Him was all because of them, and not because of the Lord.

It is easy for us to think, "Wow, those Israelites were really stupid. How foolish to reject God like that!" But are we much different? Whenever we, even in the smallest way, reject God, we show the same lack of sense.

1 Sam 10:20-21a And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen. When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was chosen. And Saul the son of Kish was chosen.

The choice of Saul as Israel's first king was made by casting lots, a means of determining God's will in answer to yes-or-no questions. The lots were cast like dice. The principle underlying the use of lots was an active confidence in God's control of all events.

Since we see Samuel using Urim or Thummin that is like dice in the Bible, it does not condone gambling or buying the lottery tickets. The Bible teaches clearly that we should work with our own hands.

1 Sam 10:21b-24 But when they sought him, he could not be found. Therefore they inquired of the Lord further, "Has the man come here yet?" And the Lord answered, "There he is, hidden among the equipment." So they ran and brought him from there; and when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward. And Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom the Lord has chosen, that there is no one like him among all the people?" So all the people shouted and said, "Long live the king!"

This was the second sign of weakness in Saul's character. I know that you might think, "Hey, wait a minute. This could be another sign of the man's humility." No, when God has called us to a task or mission, for us to try to hide from that call of God - is not a sign of humility, it is a sign of folly, or weakness. So this hiding from the call of God to be the chosen is a sign of weakness.

F. THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

1 Sam 10:25-27 Then Samuel explained to the people the behavior of royalty, and wrote it in a book and laid it up before the Lord. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house. And Saul also went home to Gibeath; and valiant men went with him, whose hearts God had touched. But some rebels said, "How can this man save us?" So they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

As you can tell, so far I am not very favorable to Saul. But I must give this one to Saul. He heard about some rebels' comment regarding him. He did exactly what godly person should do - ignoring it. Especially, when we get involved in ministries for the Lord and His people, we will hear some negative comments about us. The best thing we can do is ignoring it.

As the pastor of Calvary Chapel of Sahuarita, I will be the main course for the “roast the pastor” on Sunday afternoon or throughout the week. I know that people are fickle. One moment, they can be best buddies and next moment they would rake the person over the coal. If you don’t believe me, look what the people did to Jesus. A few days before, they shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’” on the streets of Jerusalem, and a few days later the same people screamed at the top of their lungs, “Crucify Him!”

We ought to have the heart of deer to be kind to the people, and the skin of rhinoceros toward their negative comments. Let the Lord deal with them. He does better jobs than we can possibly imagine.

G. APPLICATIONS

1) It is not for the image of ours, but for the glory of God.

Saul started out with so much promises. He was chosen and anointed by God. He was filled with the Holy Spirit. He had the support of a man of God like Samuel. He had been given gifts appropriate to royalty. He had the enthusiastic support and goodwill of most all the nation. He had valiant men around him, men whose hearts God had touched to support him. And, he had the wisdom to not regard every doubter, or every critic, as an enemy. But despite all these great advantages, Saul still blew it.

Just because we have a nice start and God’s blessings, it doesn’t mean that God gives us a blank check for our images.

But it is all about the glory of God. Let’s remember that.

2) It is by His Spirit, not by our quick scheme.

God picked us just as we were, even though we were not godly spiritual people. For the most of us, there are still a lot to be desired to be called Christians. Yet, God does not want to leave us just as we are. For God to use us to the fullest, we have to be turned into another men and women of God **by the filling of the Spirit of the God. Let’s be available to Him.**