

LESSONS FROM DAVID:PART 1

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There is quite a lot of variety in the Scriptures — History ... Poetry ... Prophecy ... Instruction ... Personal Letters.

They are all useful for us.

Today ... I want to look at some parts of history. Some biographies of famous Biblical characters ... to see what lessons we can learn.

1 Corinthians 10:11

11 **Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, (our instruction) upon whom the ends of the ages have come.**

A lot of churches are very careful how they “present” their leaders. The scriptures are very blunt — we get the stories ... “warts and all”.

I want to look at the story of King David. He was very important in God’s plan! Mentioned over 1,100 times. Abraham was mentioned about 250 times ... Moses over 800 times. Jesus even says He is the “Root and Offspring of David”!

In looking at David ... I want to actually start with the story of Saul. Although David is Israel’s most famous king ... God originally planned for King Saul. There are lessons for us as we compare their lives — one was ultimately successful ... one a complete abject failure.

Let’s see how a king became relevant at all.

1 Samuel 8:1-9

1 Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel.

2 The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba.

3 But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.

4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah,

5 and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations."

6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the LORD.

7 And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them."

8 "According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day--with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods--so they are doing to you also.

9 "Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them."

The nation rejected God — they wanted a king.

Let's pick up the first public appearance of Saul. The people did not know that Saul had already been ordained king.

1 Samuel 10:17-24

17 Then Samuel called the people together to the LORD at Mizpah,
18 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.'

19 "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."

20 And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen.

21 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. But when they sought him, he could not be found.

22 Therefore they inquired of the LORD further, "Has the man come here yet?" And the LORD answered, "There he is, hidden among the equipment."

23 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.

24 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!"

We are not going to look at all of Saul's life — but we can't find adultery or pre-meditated murder of the sort we find in David's life over Bathsheba.

Perhaps Saul may have been more "moral" than David? But ... he had serious flaws ... and we'll see those as we go.

Israel frequently were at war with the Philistines.

1 Samuel 13:5-8

5 **Then the Philistines gathered together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the seashore in multitude.** And they came up and encamped in Michmash, to the east of Beth Aven.

6 **When the men of Israel saw that they were in danger** (for the people were distressed), then **the people hid in caves, in thickets, in rocks, in holes, and in pits.**

7 And some of the Hebrews crossed over the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. **As for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.**

8 **Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.**

The people were fearful ... terrified — scattering. This hadn't been their position up until now. What did they do when God was delaying the answer?

Samuel "delayed" — what to do? It's not a good idea to take things into your own hands ... as Saul did.

1 Samuel 13:9

9 **So Saul said, "Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me." And he offered the burnt offering.**

Saul took on the function of a priest. Saul is a civil ruler. This was a major transgression!

1 Samuel 13:10-12

10 Now it happened, as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, (*meet him or "bless him"*) that he might greet him.

11 And Samuel said, "What have you done?" Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, (*the people ran off ... and you did not turn up!!*)

12 "then I said, 'The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the LORD.' Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering."

Saul's excuses: "the people" and "you" (were at fault because you didn't turn up on time). So — I took responsibility on myself. (I invaded the office of a priest!)

No repentance!! No "Please ask Jehovah to forgive me".

As we'll see later ... David usually confessed quickly. He took responsibility for his sins ... what he did wrong.

How about you and me? When things go wrong in our life? Is it always somebody else's fault — spouse ... children ... employer ... the government? Always pointing the finger at someone else ... like Adam and Eve.

Or — do we quickly acknowledge our sins? I made a mistake ... I sinned.

Proverbs 28:13

13 He who covers his sins will not prosper,
But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

Don't "cover/hide" your sins ... confess them — and forsake them.

There were a number of occasions where Saul failed to acknowledge his sins and mistakes. David was far more willing to do so.

Who are we more like? Saul or David?

1 Samuel 13:13-14

13 And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. (Connotation of evil)
You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He

commanded you. **For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.**

14 **"But now your kingdom shall not continue. *The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart***, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

God intended to establish Saul's dynasty "forever". Saul was the first choice.

But ... like us all ... Saul had free choice. He was not a robot. God couldn't make him obey.

So God moved on to Plan B ... King David. He turned out much better. It's a pity Saul forfeited his destiny. We don't want to forget or forfeit our destiny.

2 Peter 1:10-11

10 **Therefore, brethren, *be even more diligent to make your call and election sure***, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

11 **for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

MAKE OUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE!

We don't want God to move onto someone else because we wander off the path!

Back to Saul — and another grievous failure.

1 Samuel 15:1-3

1 **Samuel also said to Saul**, "The LORD sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, **heed the voice of the words of the LORD.**

2 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt.

3 **'Now go and attack Amalek, and *utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them.* But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'** "

Utterly destroy! Everything must go! It was pay back time for Amalek.

1 Samuel 15:7-9

7 **And Saul attacked the Amalekites**, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt.

8 **He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive**, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

9 But **Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them**. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

Saul kept the best. Plain ... simple DISOBEDIENCE! ... to a plain simple command.

1 Samuel 15:10-11

10 **Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying,**

11 **"I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments."** And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night.

God was upset Samuel was upset. What about Saul? Did he have any regrets?

1 Samuel 15:12

12 So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, **"Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal."** (*Saul's victory monument — to himself!*)

Saul wasn't feeling guilty ... he had set up a victory monument to himself.

1 Samuel 15:13-19

13 **Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD."**

14 But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"

15 And **Saul said**, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for **the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.**"

16 Then Samuel said to Saul, "Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night." And he said to him, "Speak on."

17 **So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, (Saul had been humble to start with) were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?"**

18 "Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.'

19 **"Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?"**

It implies now that Saul is self-important ... victories behind him ... esteemed by the people.

He had forgotten it was God who made him great!! Now he was going about making his own decisions and ignoring God.

The lesson for us ... ALWAYS STAY HUMBLE!

Matthew 23:8-12

8 "But you, **do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ**, and you are all brethren.

9 **"Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.**

10 "And **do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ.**

11 "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.

12 "And **whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.**

He who exalts himself ... will be humbled. That's Jesus talking to His disciples ... to you and me.

1 Samuel 15:20-21

20 And **Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD**, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, **and brought back Agag king of Amalek**; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. *(Not so. David was still fighting with the Amalekites in years to come)*

21 **"But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal."**

- Excuses
- Blaming other people

Saul adamantly refuses to admit he is in the wrong

God's commandments are not "negotiable". Partial obedience is disobedience.

1 Samuel 15:22-24

22 So Samuel said:

**"Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,
As in obeying the voice of the LORD?"**

Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, (God wants a humble and willing heart)

And to heed than the fat of rams.

23 For **rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,**

And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,

He also has rejected you from being king."

24 **Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice."**

God doesn't accept rebellion and stubbornness.

Feared the people? He's the anointed king! He was supposed to fear God. Compare to Moses ... Joshua and Caleb. These were men of courage. It's obvious Saul wasn't.

One of the lessons for us is that we shouldn't fear people.

Proverbs 29:25

25 **The fear of man brings a snare,**

But **whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.**

The Fear of Man leads to problems!

Proverbs 29:25 (NLT)

25 **Fearing people is a dangerous trap,
but trusting the Lord means safety.**

Do we let other people's opinions of us influence our behaviour?

We shouldn't be like Saul — stubborn ... rebellious of heart ... difficult for God to teach — more aware of others' opinions than of God's.

Psalm 32:8-9

8 **I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will guide you with My eye.**

9 **Do not be like the horse or like the mule,
Which have no understanding,
Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle,**
Else they will not come near you.

Don't be like a mule! Don't be stubborn!

We should delight in God's ways. Be quick to learn — quick to correct ourselves.

"A fool makes excuses; a wise person makes adjustments".

1 Samuel 15:24-31

24 **Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the
commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and
obeyed their voice.**

25 **"Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may
worship the LORD."**

26 **But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you, for you have
rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from
being king over Israel."**

27 And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore.

28 So Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.

29 "And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent."

30 Then he said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD your God."

31 So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD.

I doubt if Saul had real repentance. More like face-saving ... temporary remorse. Also ... he was still king for about 20 more years ... he needs Samuel.

Finally ... let's introduce David.

1 Samuel 16:1-13

1 Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."

2 And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." But the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'"

3 "Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you."

4 So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

5 And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before Him!"

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

8 So 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 Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."

11 And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And

Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here."

12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "***Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!***"

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward.

So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

The youngest of 8 sons — "The runt". 😊

That's the first mention of David.