

A Man After God's Own Heart – 1 Samuel

1 Samuel 9:1-10:27

"A King After Man's Own Heart" – June 18, 2017



Introduction

Do our sinful mistakes mean God is done with us? Do our foolish choices mean we are left to live a 2nd class Christianity where God merely puts up with us? After God's people rejected God as their king in 1 Samuel 8, we may expect God to respond that way. We expect such a response, because many times, that's how we would respond to someone who rejects and spurns our love and care. But God is *not* like us. God hates sin and will not wink His eye at evil. And yet, rather than giving up on His people, God responds with a steadfast love – a love that refuses to give up on His people. This love is offered to us through Christ, the question is, how will we respond to it? In humble acceptance? Or proud refusal? Once again, the people of God in 1 Samuel 9 & 10 become an example for us. As we see God's mercy and God's rule in their lives, we are instructed in how we are to respond...before it's too late.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response.

Sermon Outline

- I. God's relentless love (9:1-10:16)
 - a. God's love displayed in His providence (9:1-10:8)
 - b. God's love displayed in His gracious provision (10:9-16)
- II. God's relentless rule (10:17-27)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [1 Samuel 9:1-10:16](#)

Israel had asked for a king like all the other nations. One who was impressive according to the standards of the world. When we're introduced to Saul, that's exactly what we find – a man who's handsome, tall, and wealthy. What's the difference between the way the world and the way God measures success or giftedness? What difference does the gospel make in how we measure a man/woman, or how you measure *yourself* (see 2 Corinthians 5:16-17)?

Though Israel had offended God by rejecting Him as King, we see God's love and mercy: He does not give up on them. In His judgment, He remembers mercy. Can you think of a time when you've been wronged by someone and wanted to give up on them? Maybe, you've wanted to see them hurt because they've hurt you? After seeing God graciously responds to His people in this text, how does His example and love for you in Christ help you love others with a relentless love? John says, **1 John 4:10-11** *"In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."*

Another theme in this section is God's Providence. We can think of Providence as God's activity throughout history in providing for the needs of His people. The story centers around the mundane task of looking for lost donkeys – there doesn't seem like anything supernatural about that. But from 1 Samuel 9:15-16, it's clear that these mundane, random events are not so random. God is working behind the scenes to accomplish His purposes. Sometimes we refer to extraordinary events as a 'God-thing' or will say 'God was in this.' True. But God's sovereign care isn't just in the big events – He oversees *all* the details of our lives (see Ephesians 1:11, Luke 12:7, Psalm 139:13-16). What difference does God's sovereign care make in our lives when we can't see or make sense of what He's doing? Discuss the significance of the quote from Charles Spurgeon: "God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. When we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart."

Additional reading: 1 Samuel 16:7, Isaiah 53:3, Philippians 2:4-11, Habakkuk 3:2

2) Read [1 Samuel 10:17-27](#)

God is relentless in His love...and He is relentless in His rule. Israel may reject God as King, but they cannot escape His rule. One of the contrasts we see in the text is the rule of Saul and the rule of God as King. The fact that God is a better King is a no-brainer, and yet Israel can't get past the impressive externals of Saul. Their desires to be like the world are so strong, they are blind and deaf to the folly of their choice. Have you ever wanted something so *bad* that it led you to make destructive, dangerous, or foolish choices to get it? Why are our desires not a reliable guide to knowing God's will? How then can we know God's will?

God's unavoidable, relentless rule is a reminder that there is an end to God's patience. He stands with open arms to the prodigal son (Luke 15) and stands at the door to knock for those who have pushed Him out (Revelation 3:20). But we must respond in humble repentance and trust in God as King. If we don't, we will find ourselves opposed to God's rule – and having God opposed to you is never good. Are there areas of your life that need to come under the rule of God? Areas you've kept as 'off limits' to God so you can do what you want/desire? Our desires are not reliable guides! In prayer, take time to surrender *all* areas of your life to God. He is a good King...worthy of our trust.

Additional reading: Psalm 2:1-6, Romans 12:1-3, Ephesians 5:17

Prayer of Response

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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