

**MAY 10**

**1 Samuel 8-9**

1 Samuel 8

Vs. 1-3 There are some bad and good things happening here. It is bad that the sons of Samuel are dishonest. I've heard Howard Hendricks preach this portion and mention that Samuel was a success in his profession but a failure as a father. Samuel, unfortunately, learned his fathering through Eli, another failed father.

Vs. 4-9 It is good that the people didn't want to slip back into the godless ways of the disunified Israel that existed before Samuel.

It is to be noted that God mentioned through Jacob in Genesis 49, and then through Moses, that Israel would someday have a king. I think the "demand" and the expression of the motives were wrong. The desire to be like the other nations was wrong. They should have taken time to search for God's will and heart as a nation.

Reading the Bible Knowledge Commentary-OT, p. 439, this morning, it hit me that if they would have asked God for a king and His will, eventually they would have gotten David. But at this time, God couldn't give them David because David might not have been born yet. When Rebekah and Jacob stole the blessing, it was a family disaster for them. If they had waited on and trusted in a sovereign Lord, He would have made an honest way, in His time, to make sure Jacob had that blessing. Here, if they had sought God and been willing to wait, they could have spared Israel years of disaster under Saul and seven years of civil war before David became king. Somehow, God would have naturally made David the ruler of Israel.

Vs. 10-18 Death by taxes. This is the "overhead" they were about to add to their lives.

Vs. 19-22 The people had spoken. Notice how often God tells Samuel to *obey their voice*. There was definitely a sense of rejection of God going on here. They were rejecting Samuel in the sense of rejecting what he taught them of complete trust and obedience toward God.

1 Samuel 9

Vs. 1-2 Apparently the Lord was giving the people the kind of king they had in mind: A king in their own image and after their own heart.

Vs. 3-10 The Donkeys of Kish would make a good name for a rock band or murder mystery. Notice that it seems that Saul's servant is more in charge than he is. Since we already know that Saul will be a weak, vicious, tragic person, as you read this, notice his character.

Vs. 11-21 God definitely led in Samuel and Saul getting together. When Saul mentioned that his house in Benjamin was small, we can understand that. Years earlier Benjamin was reduced to 600 men. Apparently Saul's family came from Gibeah, that infamous city.

Vs. 22-24 The reason for all of this detail is to show that those people and Saul knew that Saul had been chosen for something. He was honored and was given Samuel's personal attention. This should have given Saul confidence and some faith in God's promise.

Vs. 25-27 More confirmation was promised and we'll see what it was tomorrow.

My thoughts here for us as disciples have to do with following the Lord, seeking Him for decisions and being confident in the things we know He has shown us. There are lots of lessons to be learned from this section. Waiting as servants for His will and His timing is one of those lessons.

**John 6:22-42**

Vs. 22-24 It should be noted here, that the road from Bethsaida to Capernaum was well traveled. It is true that if you took a boat and had the right winds, you could cut off the top curve of the sea and you could save your legs. People had seen Jesus leave to go from Capernaum and Bethsaida and ran there on foot to get there ahead of Him. In v. 24, only some of the crowd took boats. The rest traveled by foot.

One more note needs to be kept in mind. On the boat trip, both Jesus and Peter had walked on water, and it says that they worshiped Jesus, in Matthew 14:33. That experience for the Twelve will come in handy.

Vs. 25-34 It wasn't unusual for Jesus to challenge motives. Look at John 4:48. Some of these people were the ones who wanted to take Him and make Him king by force. Once Jesus began to say that He was the Son of God, they wanted a sign. How funny. They had just seen Him feed thousands with five loaves. Much of what Jesus says here sounds like it is a reference to Isaiah 55.

Vs. 35-40 Not only is Jesus *the Bread of Life*, He claims that He will personally raise up His followers. That is a bold claim. Thankfully, we who know Christ have an insight into what Jesus is saying that those people did not. It seems to make sense to us because we have believed in Him. Imagine how hard it was for these people to hear these words and be looking at, possibly, a 5'6" hook-nosed, slightly ugly, balding, dark-skinned man with a Galilean accent. Doesn't this whole thing remind you of Jesus at the well with the woman? You don't find a clearer declaration of Jesus saying He is God and the Messiah.

Vs. 41-42 Usually when it says *the Jews*, it means the Jewish leaders, the chief priests, the scribes and the Pharisees. It was a special challenge to look at the man Jesus, knowing His family and background and listen to these words. Yet, they had all the Scriptures that said a descendant of David would reign forever as the Son of Man. This meant He would be human born but divine. Most of these people, including the leaders, had seen Jesus perform the signs the Father had given Him to do. In truth, many of these people just didn't like God.

As disciples in the harvest, notice how the Lord talks about those who come to Him, who understand that He is the Savior. They were drawn by the Father. This should give us a lot of security in our walk and a lot of confidence in our work in the harvest. If our coming to Christ was assisted and allowed by the Father, then our success in the harvest doesn't rest on the eloquence of our words, but on the power of His working. We try to strike up a conversation and tell others about Jesus. The Father does the rest.

### **Psalm 106:32-48**

The psalmist is appealing to the people to worship God, and to plead with God for mercy. This mercy is well seen in the long journey of rebellion Israel had walked with God.

Vs. 32-33 They made Moses so mad that He, too, rebelled against God. But, God still brought the nation into the land.

Vs. 34-46 Notice that this part of the psalm summarizes what we just read in Judges. Notice first that they mixed with the people. Then they sacrificed their children. The point of this psalm is that in spite of their disobedience, the Lord rescued them. Still, the people paid a tragic price for their disobedience. During the time of the judges, many in Israel were led away and made slaves of other nations.

Vs. 47-48 If the time here is after the exile, the people were pleading to the Lord to rescue them and re-gather them from the nations. I suspect this is written by David, showing the people that they need to beg God for mercy, because He is bringing them out of those days of the judges. They need to appeal to His mercy as shown in the past to give them blessing in the present and a hope for the future. They need to praise God and bless His name for His faithfulness.

### **Proverbs 14:34-35**

We've seen v. 34 on political posters. This righteousness is rightness before God. There will be plenty of well-meaning, morally righteous people in hell. What makes a servant deal wisely? Paul and the Spirit say it here. *Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.* (Ephesians 6:5-8)