

The Lord Hath Anointed Thee

I Samuel 10:1-27

I. SAUL ANOINTED AS KING

- a. The anointing with oil is a picture and type of the Holy Spirit- equipping us for service
 - i. Anointing with oil was a common practice for medicinal and cleansing purposes and became symbolic of blessing, protection, and empowerment.
 - ii. In Bible times, people were anointed with oil to signify God's blessing or call on that person's life. There is no commandment to use such oil today- it was symbolic of the Holy Spirit
 - iii. Every believer in the NT is "anointed" (Acts1:8)
 - iv. I John 2:20, 27; John 16:13
 - v. God's unlikely choices-King Cyrus (Is 45:1 "my anointed", Balaam- Holy Spirit came upon him (Num 24)
- b. What happened to Saul's head and body was a picture of what God did in him spiritually. The Holy Spirit was poured out on him, equipping him for the job of ruling as king over Israel.
- c. It was a secret anointing, because it was not yet time to reveal Saul as king to the nation
- d. Samuel reminded Saul that Israel belonged to the Lord, that they were His inheritance. At the same time, Saul had an important job to do, because God placed him as commander over His inheritance. Saul should try to be the best king he could, because he had care of a people who belonged to the Lord God. (Vice-king i.e. Adam)
- e. Was Saul a genuine believer?
 - i. Only God truly knows whether or not Saul was saved. Did Saul begin his career with a humble, God-fearing heart? Yes. Did he commit egregious sins later in life? Yes. The matter of his salvation is between God and Saul. Only God can see the heart (I Sam 16:7)
 - ii. The promise that Saul would be "changed into a different person" sounds very much like the born-again statements in the New Testament (see 2 Corinthians 5:17). This description, plus the statement in verse 9 that "God changed Saul's heart," leads some to believe that Saul was saved.

- iii. Just as Samuel had said, Saul was filled with the Spirit and prophesied with the other prophets (1 Samuel 10:10–13). The question remains how exactly Saul was changed. Was his new heart evidence that the Lord had forgiven his sin and saved him for eternity, or was the Lord simply overcoming Saul’s reluctance to be king (see 1 Samuel 9:21)? The Bible does not say.
- f. V. 6- Role of the Holy Spirit in the OT vs. NT (with vs. in; temporary vs. permanent)
 - i. John 7:39
 - ii. Acts 1:8, Acts 4:29-31, Stephen in Acts 6-7, Apostle Paul

II. GOD’S SIGNS OF ASSURANCE 2-7

- a. Samuel gave Saul three specific signs, by which Saul could have confidence and assurance that his anointing really was from God
 - i. Two men by Rachel’s tomb will tell him that his father found the donkeys but is worried about finding him!
 - ii. Three men will give two loaves of bread as a gift- As king, Saul will often receive gifts
 - iii. Saul among the prophets- They will be prophesying isn’t necessarily saying that they were all predicting the future, but that they all spoke under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- b. We need to trust God’s confirmation along the way. God did not want Saul to doubt his calling later so he gave him a lot of confirmation. God always confirms his anointing
- c. Seven days you shall wait: This was an important command. By the nature of their office, kings do not wait for anybody – others wait for them. But Samuel commanded Saul to wait for him, because the prophet of God had more real authority than this king over Israel. Saul had to show that even though he was a king he was submitted to the Lord and the Lord’s prophet. Failing to wait for Samuel will get Saul into trouble on a future occasion.
- d. Saul hides his experience from his family – v. 14-16

III. GOD’S PRINCIPLES FOR HIS ANOINTED

- a. I brought Israel out of Egypt: Before God appointed a king for Israel, God reminded them of all He did for them. God reminded Israel that He was still more than qualified to be their king and that they rejected Him

- b. Samuel explained to the people the behavior of royalty: Samuel taught them God's guidelines for both rulers and subjects, probably using Deuteronomy 17:14-20.
- c. Hiding among the stuff (equipment)- "There may be some of you here present, who may be doing precisely what Saul did, only you are doing it more foolishly than he did. He did but hide away from an earthly crown, but you hide from a heavenly one." (Spurgeon)
- d. Understanding the historical facts here are important, but there are vital lessons here for all of God's anointed
 - i. Why do many Christians not serve- they don't believe they have been anointed or called to do anything for God!
 - ii. Before God ever called me to preach, he called me to do a lot of other things first!
 - iii. Christians who live without a calling aimlessly drift, and end up in sin
 - iv. Illustr- Moses, Esther (for such a time as this), 12 simple, mostly uneducated disciples (Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.) turned the world upside down
- e. I Cor. 1:26-31

Conclusion:

- From this, we see that Saul started with great promise. He was:
 - Chosen and anointed by God
 - Filled with the Holy Spirit
 - Supported by a great man of God
 - Given gifts appropriate to royalty
 - Enthusiastically supported by most all the nation
 - Surrounded by valiant men, men whose hearts God had touched
 - Wise enough to not regard every doubter or critic as an enemy
- Despite all these great advantages, Saul's story still ended badly. He had to choose to walk in the advantages God gave him, and choose to not go his own way. The rest of the book of 1 Samuel shows how Saul dealt with that choice.