

I SAMUEL 10-11

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to I Samuel chapter 10 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

As we have seen so far, God has raised up a man by the name of Samuel to lead the nation back to God. And as Samuel is serving the Lord and ministering to the people, the children of Israel demand to have a King like the other nations. They were tired of having these local Judges, especially Samuel's sons, who were wicked! Thus, they wanted a King!

And this devastated Samuel, but the Lord told Samuel that they were not rejecting him, but they were rejecting Me, the Lord!

You see, **YAHWEH** was to be their God, He was to be their King, but they wanted an earthly King, and it was not time for this to take place. But, as we have seen, God is going to allow it.

It is not His perfect will for the children of Israel, but His permissive will and we will see that played out as their first King is going to be a disaster.

Not only that, but God tells Samuel that there are consequences to having a King. He tells Samuel to let the people know that when you have a King:

- *He will take your sons and draft them into his army.*
- *He will take your sons and make them work in his fields.*
- *He will take your daughters, and they will serve him.*
- *He will take some of your land for himself.*
- *He will take your land and put a tax upon it.*
- *He will take your servants for himself.*

➤ *He will take your animals and put a tax upon them.*

In other words, he will take from you, it will not be easy. The warning was given but that did not change the minds of the children of Israel!

We see this played out for us in I Samuel 8:19-22 where we were told, **“Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, ‘No, but we will have a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.’ And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the hearing of the Lord. So the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Heed their voice, and make them a king.’ . . .”**

As we saw last time, God set up an appointment for Samuel and this man who would be King, Saul.

And as chapter 9 concluded Samuel tells Saul to send his servant on ahead as Samuel is about to tell Saul that he will be King in Israel!

With that as our background, let’s begin reading in I Samuel chapter 10, starting in verse 1, and see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word!

I SAMUEL 10

VERSE 1

I can’t imagine what Saul is thinking here as Samuel pours this oil over his head, anointing him as King over Israel.

And as strange as this may sound, it is a beautiful picture of the Holy Spirit being poured out upon Saul, as oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit.

When Samuel anointed David as King in Israel, we are told, **“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.”** I Samuel 16:13.

You see, in any ministry, in any position that we have we need the power of God’s Spirit working in our lives. We can’t do it on our own and neither could Saul!

Now what is interesting is that some of the other nations that surrounded Israel, they would pour fat taken from a bull or ox, rub it on the persons head because they believed that by doing this the person would be infused with this animal’s power, their strength.

But not God’s people. The holy oil is to be poured upon their head, flowing down because apart from the empowering of the Holy Spirit, their lives will not be fruitful and the same is true with us!

In I Corinthians 6:19 we are told, **“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”**

You see, the moment we get saved the Holy Spirit indwells our lives!

Also, in I John 2:20 we are told, **“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.”**

Every Christian is indwelt by the Holy Spirit and then there is also that empowering for service as Jesus tells us in Acts 1:8, **“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**

We need that power of God’s Spirit in our lives to do the work that He has called us to do, to be a witness of Him wherever we go!

Now Samuel’s words to Saul are important.

First of all, it was the Lord who anointed him. It has nothing to do with Saul himself, the Lord has made him King and he is King over the Lord's inheritance, the children of Israel.

Poole put it like this, *“Whereby he admonisheth Saul that this people were not so much his as God's; and that he was not to rule and manage them according to his own will and pleasure, but according to the will and mind of God.”*

In ministry, please understand that you are ministering over God's people and thus, do so accordingly.

You are representing Him, and you need to care for His people as He would!

We need to be careful not to lord over the people, but care for them, feed them, love them, and this is especially true of pastors but not exclusively!

As we read on, we will see Samuel give Saul a series of signs that will confirm his appointment.

Why did he need to do that?

Because Saul is a very insecure person, and he is trying to help give him some confidence in the work that God wanted him to do. Not security in Saul but his security and his work as the Lord will work in Saul and through Saul!

VERSE 2

Why should Saul believe these words from Samuel?

Because Samuel is going to give him three signs to show this is of God.

This first one, this confirmation of what Samuel told Saul was that he would find two men by Rachel's tomb, and they will tell Saul that the donkeys are found and that his father is now worried about him.

You see, if Samuel was really a prophet, then these things would come to pass, and it would be confirmation to Saul that the Lord really has anointed him King over Israel.

VERSES 3-4

Samuel tells Saul that as he continues to travel, he will meet three men who have three young goats, three loaves of bread and a skin of wine. And they will give Saul two loaves of bread.

Again, as strange as this may sound, it was just confirming that Samuel is a prophet of God and what he said to Saul is going to come to pass!

And we see here the second confirmation that he is to be King in Israel. As we read on we will see the third confirmation that Saul is to be King in Israel.

VERSES 5-7

The third confirmation that what Samuel said to him is true is that he will come upon a group of prophets playing all kinds of instruments. And when this happens, God is going to change him into a new man or what was symbolic of the oil being poured out earlier is now going to become a reality here as Saul is empowered to be King.

In saying that please understand that he is not walking around with a cape and a big “**K**” for King on his shirt now that he is empowered by God’s Spirit.

No, the Lord tells him through the prophet Samuel, “**And let it be, when these signs come to you, that you do as the occasion demands; for God is with you.**”

In other words, Saul needed to walk accordingly, to do those things that God was showing him and so must we. It truly is a walk of faith!

Now with these three signs that Samuel gave to Saul there is a very interesting picture that emerges.

First of all, there is the concern of the Father, as Kish was concerned for Saul, and how we as Christians should know the love that the Father has for us.

Remember what Jesus said in John 3:16 regarding the Father's love for us, "**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**"

Not only that, but next we see the communion of the Son, the bread that was given to Saul, and for us the communion we have with Jesus and folks, without that communion with Christ we cannot bear fruit.

Jesus said in John 15:5 "**I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**"

And lastly, we see the empowerment of the Holy Spirit upon our life. Without that, you will lack the power for service. You may have all the tools, but not the power to run them!

Jesus told His disciples "**Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.**" Luke 24:49.

You might say that these are the pre-requisites for a child of God for service. The love of the Father, the communion of the Son, and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit!

When you look at the life of Saul, he was not really a spiritual man. Yes, God did use him, but as we will see as we look at his life, there was not much to it in regard to his love of the Lord, his worship of God.

He was a changed man, God did empower him, but that was going to be short lived, as he will be a man of the flesh and not of the spirit!

One writer summed it up like this for us. He wrote,

Here's an insecure person . . . Saul feels inferior . . . He's always worrying about how he stacks up to others. Suddenly, the Spirit of God will come upon Him and enrapture him in ecstatic praise. He'll forget about Himself in a tsunami of God's love, and power, and presence.

Saul forgets about himself and rejoices in God.

Note the sequence of what happens to confirm God's blessing on Saul - *what was lost is found - his hunger gets fed - he joins in God's praise – and he's filled and transformed by the Holy Spirit.*

This is how God confirms His blessing on us.

Jesus saves lost donkeys, and returns us to our owner . . . without our effort.

Our spiritual hunger gets met. We're fed out of the abundance of another.

We're given a new song. A desire is born in us to join in God's praise.

And finally we're filled with the Holy Spirit. The end result is we're ***“turned into another man.”***

Our focus is no longer on ourselves. We're caught up in God.

This is what turned ***petrified Peter*** into ***power-packed Pete***.

At the Feast of Pentecost, our High Priest, Jesus, poured out the Holy Spirit upon the infant church. And every man present that day was ***“turned into another man.”***

This is what we need today – an outpouring of the Spirit.

The Spirit turns us from wimps to witnesses. He transforms us from flickers into flames.

Ask the Lord to pour out the Spirit upon your life – not with an eye-dropper, but with a full flask.

VERSE 8

Samuel tells Saul to go down to Gilgal and wait there for him to arrive, and he will be there in seven days.

Seems strange but maybe he is trying to teach Saul patience as well as humility as this new King had to wait for Samuel and as you know, Kings or leaders really don't like to wait for anyone, they are King!

Why did Samuel have him go to Gilgal?

Poole gives us some insight to this as he wrote, *“Gilgal was chosen for this purpose as a very fit place; partly because that place was famous for the solemn renewing of the covenant between God and Israel, Joshua 4 . . . and partly because it was a very convenient place for the tribes within and without Jordan to assemble, and consult, and unite their forces together upon such occasions.”*

VERSES 9-13

God gave Saul a new heart, one that was to be sensitive to Him, but again, Saul is going to harden himself to the things of God.

We will see that as we read on here in I Samuel, but at this point, the Spirit of God came upon him, and he is prophesying, and the people were wondering what was going on with Saul.

They use that phrase, **“Is Saul also among the prophets?”** and the idea here, to put it in our vernacular, *“Did Saul get religion”* or *“Did Saul get religious on us”*?

There was a change in his life and people recognized that.

May that be true in our lives, may people see that God has changed us inwardly and that change has affected our outward actions! And may this change be real and not just for show!

Another question in verse 12 is this, **“But who is their father?”**

What is that all about?

The idea here is this. Who is inspiring these prophets to speak and if God is, then why is it so strange to think that God can use Saul to speak through!

If God is their inspiration, then why should it be strange that God could inspire an unlikely man such as Saul?

Regarding this, Poole wrote, *“Who is the father of all these prophets of whom you speak, and among whom Saul is now one? Who is it that instructs and inspires them with this holy art, but God? They have it not from their natural parents . . . but by inspiration from God, who, when he pleaseth, can inspire Saul, or any other man, with the same skill. And therefore wonder not at this matter, but give God the glory of it.”*

VERSES 14-16

Now this seems kind of strange, that Saul did not tell his uncle all that Samuel told him.

As you read this you may be thinking, *“Why in the world did Saul not tell his uncle all that Samuel had said, that he was to be the King!”*

Now some feel that Saul is just being humble here. It is possible but I don't see that in the life of Saul.

I think what we are seeing here is the faithlessness of Saul in what Samuel had told him, even though all that Samuel had said came to pass in regard to the confirmation of what Samuel told him. And not just one confirmation, but three of them and yet, unbelief is seen here with Saul.

Saul, as we shall see, is not a man of faith.

And we read in Hebrews 11:6 about how God looks upon faith. We read **“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”**

May our prayer be, *“Lord, help us to trust in your promises and then walk by faith, letting others know what You are doing in our lives!”*

You see, it is easier to say, *“There is no way God can use me, I am a nobody!”* than to take those steps of faith that God wants us to do, to walk by faith!

VERSES 17-19

We see here that Samuel instructed Saul to wait in Gilgal because that’s where the official anointing and confirmation of his Kingship would take place, while Samuel gathered the people in Mizpah to publicly announce Saul as the chosen King, allowing the entire nation to witness the selection process and acknowledge their new leader.

Essentially, Gilgal was for the private act of anointing, while Mizpah was for the public declaration of Saul as King to the Israelites.

So as Samuel prepares to give the people the King they want, he gathers the tribes of Israel together and now the Lord is going to speak through Samuel and remind them all that He has done for them and yet, they have rejected Him as their King and have taken a man to be their King.

How in the world could they do something like this?

I mean, think about it. All that God has done for them, and yet, they don’t want Him to rule and reign in their lives, how foolish!

Before we are too harsh on the children of Israel, what about us?

What about when we desire earthly leaders, earthly things to reign in our lives after all that God has done for us?

You see, it does not look too good when we put it in that perspective does it?

Of course not, thus, may we truly let the Lord rule and reign in our lives because He has what is best for us!

VERSES 20-22

Here we see Saul chosen as King by lot, but please understand that this was all under the guidance of God and not a random chance happening!

I am sure that the people are excited as Saul has been chosen. But there is a problem!

They can't seem to locate him, and the question goes out, "*Is Saul even here yet?*"

And the Lord tells them that he is hiding behind the equipment, that is your King over there!

I don't know about you, but that is not exactly the leader I would be looking for, the one who is to lead them in battle is hiding out!

Again, some see this as humility on the part of Saul, but I do not see this as humility here with Saul. What I do see is a lack of faith.

What do I mean by that?

Remember, God had told him through Samuel, that he was to be King.

He had already been anointed for service and now he was to be recognized before the people.

If God has called you into a ministry, He will equip you for it also.

Remember what Paul said in II Corinthians 9:8, “**And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.**”

And yet Saul did not have that kind of faith, and so he is found hiding from the will of God.

Now here’s the thing. True humility is very aware of its inadequacies. That is not wrong if you trust in God to do what He has called you to do, and you walk by faith!

God did prepare Saul for this day; He made him a new man. The problem for Saul is that he did not act on what God had done, or he did not walk by faith!

And that can happen in our own lives as we allow fears and insecurities to keep us from doing what God has called us to do.

Let me give you this illustration to drive home this point.

Back during World War 1 there was a munitions factory. And at the entrance to this plant there was this huge sign with the letters “***I A D O M.***”

One day a visitor came to this munitions factory and noticed the sign everywhere. It was on the doors, it was on the walls, it was in the halls!

Finally, curiosity got the better of him and he asked a supervisor what the letters meant!

The supervisor explained it like this, “It is an acrostic for the phrase – “***IT ALL DEPENDS ON ME!***”

That was their motto and tragically, that was Saul’s motto as well! He felt it all depended upon him, and he was paralyzed in fear!

He left God out of the picture, the One who called Saul and thus, it was all upon his shoulders and he just couldn’t handle it, and he is hiding!

VERSE 23

Since Saul was hiding, some of the people ran to get him and when he was presented before the people, here stood this tall, dark and handsome man who was going to be their King!

And truly, when you looked at him outwardly, he did look like a King.

But inwardly there were problems, and he is demonstrating his lack of faith already, a lack of faith in God.

And again, that is how the world picks a King, a leader, one who looks like a leader but looks can be deceiving!

Make no mistake about it, Saul was an interesting character. You can say that he was a physical giant but also a spiritual midget!

VERSE 24

Remember the saying, ***“You asked for it you got it Toyota!”***

Well, in a sense that is what Samuel is saying to the people and not in a good way as the saying was meant.

He was telling them, ***“Hey look, is there anyone else like this man among the people?”***

Think about it. He was hiding and the people had to go and get him and drag him so he could be placed as their King.

And yet, the people longed for this day, and they shouted, **“Long live the king!”**

They were not interested in what he was doing, but by his appearance, he was their King!

Very sad and yet, people still do that today by placing things on the throne of their lives instead of the Lord!

VERSES 25-26

After all of this we see that Samuel discharges the people, and they all head home.

And it does seem almost anti-climactic.

But I love what God does here. Saul does not head home alone, but with “**valiant men**” who follow after him. Men whose lives God has touched follow after Saul to help assist him in the ministry. How important that is!

I love how God does that; He touches people’s hearts, and they go and assist in the work of the ministry.

Understand that the work done here at Calvary Chapel is not done solely by me, but God has given to me men to assist in the work whose hearts are knit to mine.

God has raised up in this church men whose hearts have been touched by God.

He has raised up women also to assist in the work here at Calvary Chapel and what a blessing that is to me, and to this church.

That is a healthy church, a body that is working together for the betterment of itself!

Now Samuel, in explaining the behavior of royalty he could have taken them to Deuteronomy 17:14-20, where we are told, “**Then you come to the land which the Lord your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, ‘I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,’ you shall surely set a king over you whom the Lord your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the Lord has said to you, ‘You shall not return that way again.’ Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself. Also it shall**

be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.”

I am sure that Samuel shared these words as well as the warning of what it would cost them to have a King. Samuel wrote this down for the people. And, like I have said, it was not a good thing, and they needed to be aware of what they were getting into.

VERSE 27

Not everyone in Israel was supportive of Saul as their King.

There were those that refused to honor him and Saul, he could have crushed them, he could have put them to death, but he didn't.

We are told, “**But he held his peace.**”

Meyer makes these interesting comments about Saul's response to these men, *"The Hebrew, as suggested by the margin, is still more striking. 'He was as though he had been deaf' - he pretended not to hear. He did hear; every word had struck deep into his soul, but he made as though he were deaf. It is a great power when a man can act as though he were deaf to slander, deaf to detraction, deaf to unkind and uncharitable speeches, and treat them as though they had not been spoken, turning from man to God, leaving with God his vindication, believing God that sooner or later will give him a chance . . . of vindicating the true prowess and temper of his soul."*

He may have started out like this, but he surely does not end this way!

In the previous verses we saw the positive aspects of the ministry, men coming alongside to assist Saul.

But now we see the negative, those that refuse.

There are always those who are basically troublemakers. Those who disagree with how things are going and instead of praying about it, speaking to those they have a problem with, or even leave the church; they rather would cause disunity and division within the church.

And how sad it is to see the enemy control the lives of these people.

I realize that may be harsh but look at what they leave behind and it is many times death and destruction, a mess!

But here we see Saul show some signs of restraint, and he ignores these troublemakers.

Now as we move from chapter 10 to chapter 11, we also move from Saul to Nahash the Ammonite, and to the area of Jabesh Gilead, on the east side of the Jordan River.

According to some of the manuscripts and according to Josephus, an extra paragraph is missing that was an introduction to this section.

And it does shed some light on the things that transpired at this time, which was approximately 1 month after the events of chapter 10.

This verse reads: *“Now Nahash, the king of the Ammonites, had been oppressing the Gadites and the Reubenites grievously, gouging out the right eye of each of them and allowing Israel no deliverer. No men of the Israelites who were across the Jordan remained whose right eye Nahash, king of the Ammonites, had not gouged out. But seven thousand men had escaped from the Ammonites and entered into Jabesh Gilead.”*

Was this really a missing portion of Scripture?

We don't know but it is not needed for the story, it just does shed a little light to what is going on.

The thing to remember is that those added words are not inspired, but it may be historical evidence of what was going on during this period of time.

Thus, these are the events that took place as chapter 11 opens up.

I SAMUEL 11

VERSES 1-2

Jabesh Gilead is the area where the 1/2 tribe of Manasseh settled, on the east side of the Jordan River. It was located about 20 miles south of the Sea of Galilee.

Now the Ammonites, on the other hand, came from the area that is called today Ammon Jordan, to the south of Jabesh Gilead.

If you remember from Judges chapter 11, Jephthah and the children of Israel soundly defeated the Ammonites, and it is possible that now they are fighting back in revenge of that loss by Jephthah!

And they threaten the people of Jabesh Gilead so much that they want to make a deal with Nahash, and they will serve this King if he spares their lives.

This makes sense because the Ammonites were a strong military power and really, what else could the people of Jabesh Gilead do?

Folk's, they could have repented, they could have brought their request to God, but instead, they try to make a covenant with the enemy. That is the wrong thing to do.

Balike put it like this as he wrote, ***“Instead of humbling themselves before God and confessing the sins that had brought them into trouble, they put God altogether aside, and basely offered to become the servants of the Ammonites . . . We see here the sad effect of sin and careless living in lowering men’s spirits, sapping courage, and discouraging noble effort. Oh, it is pitiable to see men tamely submitting to a vile master! Yet how often is the sight repeated! How often do men virtually say to the devil, ‘Make a covenant with us, and we will serve thee’!”***

Now this condition that Nahash makes to spare the people of Jabesh Gilead seems pretty strange to us, but it was very practical back then.

What is the point of putting out the right eye of your enemy?

By putting out the right eye of your enemy, it made them ineffective for battle.

The reason is this. As you would hold your shield in your left hand, it would cover your face and protect it. The only part exposed would be your right eye as you peaked around the shield to keep track of what was going on.

But if they put out your right eye, you would then have to expose your whole face so you would be able to see what you were doing through your left eye. And you would be left wide open for a serious injury, a mortal wound.

That is why Nahash made this a condition for the covenant. His enemy would be vulnerable, and it was a humiliating action for the men of this city.

As you look at what Nahash is doing, he is really a type of Satan in our lives, our enemy.

Let me give you a couple of examples to show you what I mean.

- Satan attacks us but cannot do anything against us without our agreement. He asks for and requires our *surrender*. But why are we surrendering to him when we should surrender our lives to the Lord, be guided by His Spirit!
- Satan wants us to serve him and will attempt to intimidate us into giving in to him. He will do whatever it takes for us to serve him; don't fall for his evil deceptions!
- Satan wants to humiliate us and exalt himself over us. Through humiliating one saint, Satan wants *to bring reproach* on all God's people. Folk's, Satan will try to get us to fall, to stumble, to sin and if and when that happens, bring it to the Lord, repent and start walking with the Lord. Your sins have been paid in full but don't give the enemy the resources to bring a reproach upon God and God's people!
- Satan wants to take away our ability to effectively fight against him. How does he do this? By isolating us, keeping us out of God's Word, keeping us from fellowship with the Lord. We know that and thus, don't fall prey to it!
- Satan wants to blind us, and if he cannot blind us completely, he will blind us partially. He does this by dangling sin in front of us like a piece of candy to a child. Be wise and don't partake, don't let him make you think there is nothing wrong with it, it is only one piece of candy. That may be true, but the candy is deadly!
- The name **Nahash** means *serpent* or *snake*! I guess I don't have to say anymore here, for Satan is the serpent, he is a snake!

VERSE 3

The leaders in Jabesh Gilead ask Nahash to wait seven days and if no one comes to their aid, then they will surrender to him, and he can put out their right eye.

Think about that for a minute. They are telling Nahash, ***“Look, what you have said is not our first option. Let us first see if we can get enough men together and destroy you, but if we can’t, then we will surrender!”***

I don’t know about you but for me, it is hard to imagine why Nahash would agree to wait seven days to see if anyone would come to the aid of the people of Jabesh Gilead.

But there might be three explanations.

First of all, he may have felt very secure with the strength of his army and thus his pride played a role in his decision.

Secondly, the people of Jabesh did not come to assist Israel in the battle against Benjamin for their gross sin they committed. Thus, Nahash may have felt that since the men of Jabesh did not help Israel, then Israel would not come to their assistance, if he was even aware of this.

And lastly, the nation was in disunity and thus, he may have thought that no one would gather together to come to the aid of the people of Jabesh Gilead.

I think that all of them played a role, but the main issue for Nahash is pride, he did not think he would lose this battle no matter what!

But what does the Bible say?

“Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.” Proverbs 16:18.

VERSES 4-5

Here is another reason I feel there was disunity in Israel.

Yes, Saul was acknowledged as King, but he was not the first to hear of this news.

Thus, since there was no central government, there was no organized leadership, these messengers from Jabesh Gilead are just traveling and letting people know of their problem and Saul hears about it!

Why was Saul coming from behind the herds that were in the fields if he was King?

Again, that is a great question and the reason being was because there was no organization, he didn't know what to do, where to start and he is just out working.

And as he is out working, God is going to show him what to do. I think that is a great lesson for us.

We are not to sit back and do nothing, but be working, serving the Lord and He will direct you in what you should do!

But for Saul, he was the King, and he should have been overseeing the nation, and he wasn't!

VERSES 6-8

As Saul hears the news of what Nahash wants to do to the men of Jabesh Gilead, the Spirit of the Lord comes upon him and he begins to cluck like a chicken, bark like a dog, laugh uncontrollably, he was drunk in the spirit?

No, not at all

God's Spirit did not come upon Saul to entertain him but to empower him for the work that God had for him! God's Spirit was to equip him for service.

Isn't that what we are told in Acts 1:8 by Jesus as He said, "**But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**"

You see, the power is to serve the Lord; to be a witness of Him and it is not to toot our whistle or blow our horn but to move the Gospel message forward! May we not forget that!

And as the Spirit comes upon Saul, when Saul hears what is going on, he is filled with anger.

Now some may say that anger is wrong, that we should not be filled with anger.

That is not exactly correct.

There is a righteous anger, a righteous indignation that is not a sin.

It is when you see someone take advantage over another that you rise up to aid that victim.

There is that anger as people come against our Lord.

But there is also a selfish anger, an anger that responds out of what someone has done to us, and we feel that we need to take care of it, a "*vengeance is mine*" instead of the Lord's idea!

And folks, many times it is this anger that we refuse to let go, but instead we let it boil inside of us until we burst.

Paul said in Ephesians 4:26-27, "**Be angry, and do not sin' do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.**"

As Christians, as we are a new creation in Christ, the new man does not let his emotions deteriorate into sin, giving room for the Devil to work. It needs to be dealt with before it reaches that point!

The word that Paul did not use here in Ephesians for “**angry**” was not the Greek word, **PARORGISMOS**, which is far more than just a momentary outburst of emotion. These are deep-seated emotions that are like cancer and spread very quickly. This type of anger is like a shotgun, it may explode just once but the damage that is done is incredible.

Horace wrote, “*Anger is momentary insanity.*”

I think he is right!

I know, it is hard to believe and yet, anger that is kindled will grow out of control and it will destroy everything it touches.

Paul says not to let the sun go down on your wrath. Settle your anger before it gets out of control. It doesn't matter if you are right or not, deal with it because if you don't you will give the Devil a chance to cause division and fractures in the body of Christ.

If there is someone you are angry with, deal with it before you leave tonight or when you get home, but just deal with it!

Don't let your anger grow and grow until you blow. Deal with it, settle it in your own heart, let it go before your wrath is seen and you sin.

You see, anger that is a sin is self-centered, self-focused and it does need to be dealt with!

If not, you are giving the Devil room to operate in your life, and it will be ugly!

The word that Paul did use here in Ephesians for “**angry**” is the Greek word, **ORGIZO** (or-gid'-zo) and it speaks of becoming exasperated, to provoke, aggravated.

I think Paul's main point is not letting someone push your bottoms and cause you to sin! Stay in control, stay close to the Lord and let Him move you instead of someone else!

Now Saul, in trying to rally the troops for battle, cuts up this yoke of oxen and sends it throughout the land as kind of an incentive to join in this battle.

If they refused, then their oxen would be cut in pieces as this one was!

And the result is that the nation joined together as one to fight with their brethren against the enemy and for the people of Jabesh Gilead!

VERSES 9-10

As the men of Jabesh hear the good news, that Saul and the nation is coming to assist them the following day, the people of Jabesh Gilead were glad.

They must have had a great sigh of relief knowing that they were not ostracized because of their dwelling on the east side of the Jordan River or not coming to aid in the battle years earlier against the tribe of Benjamin.

But now that is over, and God's people have forgiven and forgotten, and they will fight together for the betterment of the nation.

What a great lesson for the body of Christ, to come together against the battles we face with the enemy!

And we see that the leaders of Jabesh Gilead use some stall tactics and tell Nahash that they would come out to meet them and whatever they felt was right to do to them, then just do it!

In other words, they pretend to surrender.

VERSE 11

Saul must have put these men into a forced march all night long because it was some 20 miles from Bezek to Jabesh Gilead and they made a surprise attack upon the Ammonites during the morning watch, which was between 3 am and 6 am.

And Saul and his new army defeated the Ammonites soundly, they were utterly routed and the people and the city of Jabesh Gilead were spared!

Understand that Saul was a farmer, not a warrior. And yet his strategy is beautiful. You see, when God calls you into a ministry, He equips you, as He did Saul, to accomplish the work He has called you to do.

Take comfort in that fact!

Saul did not win this battle through military might, but by the power of God that was upon him. God gave him the victory and to think anything less is just plain pride!

Now, as we are going to see, this event catapulted Saul into the Kingdom to be King. The people wanted a King who would lead them in battle and that is just what Saul did!

And we will see that as we move on.

VERSES 12-13

Remember the incident back in I Samuel 10:27 as Saul was chosen by lot to be King and some of the people responded, “**... ‘How can this man save us?’ So they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.**”

Now, after this victory, the people want these men to be put to death for coming against Saul.

But I love Saul's response. He basically says that this is God's day, He has given us the victory, He has brought salvation to Israel or has saved Israel from its enemies, and thus, He will get the glory this day. No dark cloud was going to be cast over what God has done.

And isn't this how Satan works! God gives Israel this victory, Satan is defeated but he does not give up.

If he can't defeat Israel from outside, he will attack from within and get the children of Israel to fight against each other.

Saul did not allow it, and neither should we.

Let's be wise and not fall for Satan's schemes, because he loves to cause division!

VERSES 14-15

Remember that Gilgal was the place that the children of Israel first set-up camp as they entered the land of Canaan, and now it is the place where they crowned their King, Saul. He was a man who appeared to start out in humility, but his life comes crashing down in pride.

Now I thought that Saul was already a King, what is this all about?

Keep in mind that back in I Samuel 10:1 Saul was anointed King by Samuel.

Then in I Samuel 10:17-21 we see Saul chosen to be King by the casting of lots, but we do not see a formal coronation here.

And now, here in I Samuel 11:14-15 we see that Saul is confirmed by the people to be King.

Now the entire nation recognized Saul as their King, the one they were looking for to lead them in battle had arrived, or so they thought.

Yes, the Spirit of God came upon Saul, but I don't think Saul was ever saved.

He was a man of the flesh and not of the Spirit and we will see that as we move on in our study here in I Samuel.

It is as Clarke wrote, *“Thus far Saul acted well, and the kingdom seemed to be confirmed in his hand; but soon through impudence he lost it.”* And Blaikie wrote, *“O Saul, Saul, how well for thee it would have been hadst thou maintained this spirit! For then God would not have had to reject thee from being king.”*

Keep in mind that an older and jealous Saul will not treat David with the same graciousness.

Folk's, it is not starting out well but finishing well. It is that steadfastness in the faith, it is not giving up, it is forging ahead or as Paul said, **“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”** II Timothy 4:7.

May we finish strong!