

The King's Voice: Lessons from the Book of I Samuel  
The King the People Chose  
I Samuel 8:4-7, 19-20, 12:19-25

INTRODUCTION: The people of Israel had grown weary of walking by \_\_\_\_\_ in God. They looked at the nations around them and said to Samuel, "*Make us a king to judge us \_\_\_\_\_ all the nations*" (I Samuel 8:5). God had chosen Israel to be \_\_\_\_\_, a people set apart under His authority. But instead of rejoicing in His rule, they demanded a human ruler who looked the part. God gave them \_\_\_\_\_.

At first, Saul stood head and shoulders above the crowd. Outwardly, he seemed like everything a \_\_\_\_\_ should be. Yet inwardly, he lacked a heart of \_\_\_\_\_. His story warns us that choosing man's way instead of God's way always ends in \_\_\_\_\_.

I. The People's Demand (I Samuel 8:4-7)

- A. The elders of Israel's request sounded reasonable, but it stemmed from discontent with God's provision and impatience with His \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 5).
- B. What looked like a rejection of \_\_\_\_\_ was really rebellion against God's authority (verse 7).
- C. God gave them the king they \_\_\_\_\_ but warned them that sorrow would follow (verses 18-19).

II. The Profile of Saul (I Samuel 9:1-2)

- A. Saul looked impressive to the eye (verse 2). His height and appearance fit the people's \_\_\_\_\_ of strength and success.
- B. Saul was quick to act without waiting on God, and quicker still to \_\_\_\_\_ his failures.
- C. Although Saul was tall, strong, and chosen by the people, his downfall revealed the emptiness of a life without wholehearted \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

### III. The Pride of Disobedience (I Samuel 13:8-14)

- A. We must learn that taking matters into our own hands shows a lack of \_\_\_\_\_ in God's timing. Saul waited seven days for Samuel, as he had been instructed, but when Samuel delayed, he grew impatient.
- B. We must recognize that God requires \_\_\_\_\_ obedience (verse 13). When Samuel arrived, he rebuked Saul.
- C. We must remember that God blesses those who trust His Word \_\_\_\_\_ their own wisdom. Samuel told Saul that if he had obeyed, God would have established his kingdom.

### IV. The Problem of Excuses (I Samuel 15:13-23)

- A. We must see that excuses can never \_\_\_\_\_ disobedience. When Samuel arrived, Saul said, "*I have performed the commandment of the LORD*" (verse 13).
- B. We must remember that God \_\_\_\_\_ obedience above ritual (verse 22). God does not want us to replace obedience with rituals.
- C. We must realize that \_\_\_\_\_ forfeits blessing and invites loss. Samuel declared that because Saul rejected the Word of the Lord, the Lord had rejected him from being king.

CONCLUSION: Israel wanted to be \_\_\_\_\_ all the nations. They forgot that God had called them to be different, to be \_\_\_\_\_, to be His. Compromise may look harmless, but it always robs us of God's blessings. The road to blessing has never been paved with \_\_\_\_\_. It is marked by obedience. This gets complicated sometimes because one of the struggles we face as Christians is the battle between what the Bible says and what we \_\_\_\_\_ makes sense. God's Word is clear, but our \_\_\_\_\_ often is not. Saul knew the command. He understood what God \_\_\_\_\_. Yet he reasoned his way into disobedience because it felt too demanding, too costly, too inconvenient. We can fall into the same trap by convincing ourselves that "\_\_\_\_\_ obeying" is close enough. Having seen Saul's failure, let us not repeat it. Today is the time to \_\_\_\_\_ God's way over our own.