

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 5



SAUL ANOINTED KING

Scripture Texts: 1 Samuel 10:1-27; 1 Samuel 11:1-13

Today we study the acclaiming and the anointing of Saul as king. Saul was the first king of Israel and the first to bear the title, “the Lord’s anointed”.

Saul is described as choice and godly. God further prepared him by giving him a new heart – a gift of the Spirit, and the experience of receiving words from God. A band of godly councilors and a written set of rules for governing were also given to him. There was joy in all Israel because of this new ruler. In the beginning Saul was humble and modest, and the future of Israel looked bright with him as king. As we go on studying Saul’s history, remember his beginning.

MEMORY VERSE: *To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.—Proverbs 21:3*

Saul Is Anointed

1 Samuel 10:1-10 Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head ... the Lord hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance. Stopping for a secret, informal ceremony as they walked in the morning, Samuel anointed Saul as king. This was the point at which Saul actually became king. It was God’s seal upon him. Samuel gave predictions of a number of things to take place that day that were related to Saul. These things were so much in detail that fulfillment could only mean that they came from God. **God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day.** A little later, **the Spirit of God came upon him** to give him the ability to prophesy – to hear and speak out Words from God. He did as **verse 6** predicted. And he was **turned into another man.** In **verse 8** Samuel gives explicit instructions which prove important later.

Under the new covenant that Christ sealed with His blood, man becomes a new creature. Read **2 Corinthians 5:17** and **Ezekiel 36:26**. Was Saul tasting this same, precious experience?

Saul Proclaimed King

1 Samuel 10:11-27 After the feast, at which Saul sat in the chief place and was served the choicest part of food, Samuel took Saul aside and confided many things which would be a help to him in days to follow. To make it known to the people, Samuel called them to Mizpeh, where worship was offered and Samuel went to judge (**1 Samuel 7:5-6**). He chided them for choosing a king in preference to God. We read how the lot fell on Saul of the tribe of Benjamin. But Saul had hidden himself. He was so humble and timid that he hid himself from all. The Lord knew where he was, and when they enquired of the Lord, the Lord answered, **Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff.** How many of us have done this at times when God desired to use us in His service? When he was found, Samuel presented him to the people who shouted, **God save the king.** There was joy in all Israel because of this new ruler.

A Great Honor

1 Samuel 11:1-13 Oftentimes, in the midst of life’s drudgery, when we are faithfully doing the ordinary things that seem so trivial and devoid of glamour, God opens our eyes to new opportunities of service that we had never thought of before. Does it ever occur to you how God used the most trivial events to lead us into

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 5

unsuspected paths of service? Look at the chain of ordinary events that brought Saul to the city – the wandering of a drove of animals, the failure to find them, the accident of being in the land of Zuph when he tired of the search, the suggestion of the servant; and behind all of these and the working through them, the will and hand of God along a path that he knew not. Saul set out in obedience to his father’s command to look for animals, but he found a kingdom instead. Saul had the honor of being Israel’s first king and the first to be called, “the Lord’s anointed.”

As Saul took his kingly duties, his military skills and qualities of leadership became apparent. He rallied the Israelites and defeated the enemy in his first battle. His consideration in dealing with his personal enemies revealed a Christian heart (**verse 13**). His respect to Samuel, God’s spokesman, early marked him as an ideal king. But the time came when Saul decided to do things his own way without divine sanction.

All Kings and Priests

Saul, with his great physique and his new heart, appeared to be the man needed to lead Israel. Not only in body but also in spirit, Saul was prepared to be king. He was humble and modest and depended upon God for wisdom and guidance. He acknowledged the wise leadership of Samuel, God’s spokesman, and willingly accepted his advice on all matters.

In Christ’s kingdom, we are all kings and priests. As kings, we are to have those royal qualities that should characterize every true king. Our lives should reveal to the world our royal status as the sons of God.

We should care for our bodies, since they are the temple of the Holy Spirit. It is through them that God makes His will and purpose known to the world. Certainly, every follower of Christ should be humble and modest. We have no better example of these qualities than King Jesus Himself.

Saul was chosen by God for a great task. No honor like this had ever before been bestowed upon a man of Israel. He appeared to have all of the qualifications needed to fulfill his responsibilities. Israel’s destiny as a nation appeared to be in safe hands, but something happened, which we will see later.

What did Israel lose by rejecting God’s way and substituting their own plan? We shall find the answer as we study further.

JUST A THOUGHT

You can’t win respect by demanding it.