

David and Saul - Accepted and Rejected

Sunday, September 08, 2019

Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

1 Samuel 16:1 And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Beth-lehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

1 Samuel 16:13-15 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him. And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee.

- I. The purpose of these messages on the life of David is so that we can learn who and where we are ourselves.
 - A. There are lots of truths to be learned in the character and life, both of David and Saul, and what all went on between them.
 - B. We all need to take a good look at ourselves and be honest about which one of these men we are most like.
 - C. Honesty is most important, because our tendency is always to imagine that we are like David and not like Saul, which is most often not the case at all.
 - D. We all have more of Saul in us than we want to admit.

- II. The difference between Saul and David is the same as the difference between the natural man and the spiritual man.
 - A. One is governed by natural religion and the other by the grace of God.
 - B. Saul is the worldly hero, the demi-god that men want before them.
 - C. David had few of the characteristics that would win him an election.
 - D. Saul was the people's choice, while David was God's choice.
 - E. While we look at Saul's individual character, take notice how strikingly it resembles the character of nations.
 - F. All the errors that nations make are in essence the same as those of this first king of Israel.
 - G. He embodies the spirit of the world, in its fixation on all aspects of self.
 1. All that Saul did was about Saul – without much regard for anyone else.
 2. Saul could fight and kill, but Saul could not love others.
 3. Saul could be sentimental and cry and weep and talk a good talk like he loved David, but it was only a passing feeling and not what he really was inside his darkened heart.
 4. Saul could prophesy with the prophets but it was just words to him that had no application in his life, which was ruled by his own pride, lust, and selfishness.
 - H. So Saul represents the natural man, who when it comes down to it, puts himself first above everyone else, no matter if it costs the kingdom.

- III. The character of Saul compared to the character of David.
 - A. His appearance was what brought him favor with the people.
 1. A goodly person – means he was handsome, charming, and easy to like.

2. Head and shoulders above everyone else – he was big and tall.
 3. The world looks for a man who can do it himself, who has the abilities, the strength, the means, to accomplish what they see as important to them.
 4. Saul was the people’s candidate.
 5. David was a lad – a nobody; he brought nothing to offer except his trust in God.
 6. Even later, when David actually became the king, he was a fugitive, a wanderer, an outcast from his own country and from the Philistines.
 7. He did not appear to be kingly material at all.
 8. Most of the people still did not accept him as king; he ruled 7 years in Hebron before he was made king over all Israel.
 9. Saul’s popularity peaked when he was made king and went down from there, while David’s popularity was lowest at the beginning and went up from there.
- B. Saul was a reserved person – not an open person.
1. They had to search for him “hiding in the stuff” to make him king.
 2. He kept things to himself – mostly because those things were ugly.
 3. People who make known their feelings come in second to people who keep them in.
 4. People who are reserved like this have secrets, and are not really what they try to project themselves to be to other people.
 5. Being reserved like this is a means of guarding pride and selfish ambitions, as well as weaknesses and vulnerabilities.
 6. David was an open person who spoke freely of his feelings and thoughts and beliefs.
 7. David always made it very clear where he stood and what his motives were, while Saul left everyone wondering.
 8. Saul valued religion and used it to exalt himself, protect himself, and try to guide his actions, but he had no faith in God.
 9. He was determined to use the external shows of religion but he was phony in it and it only caused him to be rejected of God.
 10. Then he turned to superstition – like all infidels do.
 11. David had faith in God and always found his help and deliverance and hope there, and gave God the glory and credit for everything that he ever did.
- C. Saul’s character can best be described in one word as “self-seeking.”
1. Saul despised and used others for his own ends while having contempt for anyone on whom he was supposed to have to rely for anything.
 2. David was always depending on others and valued them even when it was costly to his public image.
 - a) Joab, Abner, Absalom, and all the host of those discontent rejects who came to him when he was exiled.

1 Samuel 22:2 And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.

3. Saul calmly commanded that his own son Jonathan would be put to death for unknowingly disobeying the unreasonable and selfish command of his father in eating that bit of honey.

4. David wept for his son Absalom, even though he had shamed his father, stolen the kingdom, laid with his wives, and tried to kill him.
5. Saul killed all the priests of the Lord because they had helped David.
6. David protected the priests of the Lord.
7. To Saul the priests and the sacrifices were just useful means of PR, but to David they were realities of God and his worship.
8. Saul honored himself and other kings – he saved Agag and kept all the spoil for himself; he was only compassionate on the ungodly that had high positions.
9. David’s ways were equal; he found delight in the company of the poor and needy as well as with sons of kings and princes of foreign lands.

IV. Life is a road that leads somewhere, and by examining these two lives we can see the end of both roads.

- A. Saul became the slave of Satan and his heart the scene of the operations of evil spirits.
- B. David became the “man after God’s own heart.”
- C. The soul of Saul narrowed as he grew older – the last place he worshipped was the witch’s cave at Endor.
- D. David’s soul was enlarged and the temple at Jerusalem was the design of his old age, and his untold knowledge of the law of God that is expressed in the Psalms.
- E. Saul lived to promote and protect himself and preserve his power of the throne, but his posterity was cut off, and he left no crown to his son.
 1. He tried to lay up treasure on earth, but lost it all.
- F. David did not promote or try to protect or preserve himself or to maintain his throne, but he is the king of Israel “forever”, and the “Son of David” sits on the throne of eternity.

V. Looking at the contrast between the lives of Saul and David helps us to understand the spiritual state of things now.

- A. Many, if not most, people now view Saul as a saved man, and believe that the familiar spirit that the witch called up was actually Samuel.
- B. The extreme difference in these two men meant to be a warning to those like Saul and an encouragement to those who walk in the ways of David has now been erased in the minds of those who profess to be Christians.
- C. David is viewed more negatively than Saul is most of the time.
- D. Saul is pitied and David is condemned for the one time in his life that he sinned against God.
 1. Christians brag about their sins being forgiven but are very unforgiving of David.
- E. So it is a profitable thing to study the life of David and since Saul was such a part of the life of David we must get to know him, too.