

1 Samuel 10:17-27 – Be Careful What You Ask For

March 20, 2022

1. Background

2. Samuel's Speech

Now Samuel called the people together to the LORD at Mizpah. 1 Samuel 10:17 (ESV)

A. What had God done for His people?

And he said to the people of Israel, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.'
1 Samuel 10:18 (ESV)

- As soon as we have a problem, don't turn to everything besides God for help.

...casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7 (ESV)

B. What had God's people done to Him?

But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, 'Set a king over us.'...
1 Samuel 10:19 (ESV)

- When God allows troubles in our life, Job teaches us they are limited. God also promises to use them for His good purposes.

3. The Lord's Choice

...Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your thousands." 1 Samuel 10:19 (ESV)

Then Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot. 1 Samuel 10:20 (ESV)

He brought the tribe of Benjamin near by its clans, and the clan of the Matrites was taken by lot;... 1 Samuel 10:21a (ESV)

...and Saul the son of Kish was taken by lot... 1 Samuel 10:21 (ESV)

- **God sometimes punishes nations by the policies, choices, and character flaws of the leader God gives the nation.**

I gave you a king in my anger, and I took him away in my wrath.
Hosea 13:11 (ESV)

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.
Proverbs 16:33 (ESV)

- **Even though God is in control of random events, we don't make choices based on chance. We check God's Word for God's will and we rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance.**

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

- **If I don't know God's will on a topic, I either don't know enough about what God's Word says about the topic or I don't understand the subject matter well enough to know how God's word connects to it.**

Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.
Psalm 139:16 (ESV)

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. John 17:17 (ESV)

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth,...
John 16:13 (ESV)

...But when they sought him, he could not be found. 1 Samuel 10:21 (ESV)

So they inquired again of the LORD, "Is there a man still to come?"...
1 Samuel 10:22 (ESV)

...and the LORD said, "Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage."
1 Samuel 10:22 (ESV)

- **No matter how hard people run from God, they will always find themselves in need of God.**

Then they ran and took him from there... 1 Samuel 10:23a (ESV)

...And when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward. 1 Samuel 10:23 (ESV)

And Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen? There is none like him among all the people."... 1 Samuel 10:24 (ESV)

- **Do not judge people by the way they look on the outside. God looks on the heart.**

...And all the people shouted, "Long live the king!" 1 Samuel 10:24 (ESV)

4. The Duties Of The King

Then Samuel told the people the rights and duties of the kingship, and he wrote them in a book and laid it up before the LORD... 1 Samuel 10:25 (ESV)

"When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, 'I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,' you may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose. One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you. You may not put a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never return that way again.' And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold. "And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel. Deuteronomy 17:14–20 (ESV)

- **God's grace through Jesus is what sets us free from sin and bondage. God's law was given to keep us free.**

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.
Ephesians 4:29 (ESV)

...Then Samuel sent all the people away, each one to his home. 1 Samuel 10:25 (ESV)

Saul also went to his home at Gibeah,... 1 Samuel 10:26 (ESV)

...and with him went men of valor whose hearts God had touched.
1 Samuel 10:26 (ESV)

But some worthless fellows said, "How can this man save us?" And they despised him and brought him no present.... 1 Samuel 10:27 (ESV)

...But he held his peace. 1 Samuel 10:27 (ESV)

Application

- Sometimes God gives nations the kind of leader they want as a form of discipline on the people.
- Don't judge people by the way they look. God judges the heart.
- Even though God is in control of random events, we don't make choices based on chance. We check God's Word for God's will and we rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance.
- God's grace through Jesus is what sets us free from sin and bondage. God's law was given to keep us free.

Life Group Questions

1. What did you learn in this week's lesson that you did not know? What questions do you have?
2. Pastor Kurt said it is only God's grace through Jesus that sets us free. God's law was given to keep us free. How does that change the way you think about knowing and obeying God's Word?
3. Should we cast lots when making decisions? If not, how do we make decisions today?
4. **Read Deuteronomy 17:14-20.** Why do you think the Mosaic law contained these commands about kings? What wisdom do you see in them?
5. Someone has said, "The one thing worse than not getting what you want is getting it." How does this bit of wisdom apply to this chapter and the people's demand for a king?
6. What are some of the early indications that Saul would not be a good king? What should Saul have done to become a great king?
7. While God always saved his people from their troubles, sometimes he allowed troubles. Why does God allow troubles in our life? **See James 1:2-4, Hebrews 12:5-11.** How does God always save us from those troubles? **See Romans 8:38-39, Philippians 1:23.**