

life groups' sermon guide

saul – an empty-hearted king



Life Groups exist at Kingsway to provide authentic relationships for spiritual growth, caring for one another, and reaching out to others.

A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

Matthew 12:35

There have always been a few scriptures that have caused me pause when I read them. They have to do with leaders and direction and the things I often associate with those in leadership positions and the things, the flaws that we think we often see in those in authority positions.

Consider these verses:

The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.

Proverbs 21:1

By me kings reign and rulers make laws that are just;

Proverbs 8:15

So according to these verses, who is really in charge? What role do we as leaders, or those in authority have under these verses?

Then there are more than a few that I take as a warning. Consider these verses:

Proverbs 8:13

Proverbs 11:2

Proverbs 16:18

Isaiah 2:17

Let's look at the life of Saul for a moment...

What do we know about Saul?

Why was he king?

How did he become king?

What would you say is the high light of his time as king?

How was he removed from his throne?

What character trait would you say describes Saul as a person?

How does that trait work for or against him as king?

What do we know or suspect God thinks about that kind of character trait?

Who was his successor?

Why was he removed?

Compare the issues of pride to God's comment about David's heart:

Let's look at our opening scripture again:

A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

Matthew 12:35

If pride is the topic, then let's discuss some way to recognize it in ourselves and how to guard against it.

Where can or does pride have a tendency to manifest itself in our lives?

How do we fill our heart with good things?

How do we avoid the evil things?

If we had to put this into practice, to mentor a new Christian how would we teach the reality of Matthew 12:35?

Are we doing those things with our children, or those we are accountable with? If not why and what are we prepared to do about it?