

The Rise and Fall of Saul (Part 1)

1 Samuel 9-11

Wanting is easy, but wisdom weighs the value of what is wanted.

1. God gives Israel what they want

- a. Saul isn't a bad guy
- b. The biggest problem with Saul is that he is not God
- c. God gives Saul every chance to succeed
- d. Saul's private anointing is made public

2. If you get what you want, will you want what you get?

For Further Study and Reflection:

- *Desiring God* by John Piper
- *The Pursuit of God* by AW Tozer
- *Renovation of the Heart* by Dallas Willard
- *You are What you Love* by James KA Smith
- *Confessions* by St. Augustine

Small Group Questions:

1. What are some of your favorite earthly proverbs? Why?
2. What do you think of Eric's question: If you get what you want, will you want what you get?
3. How is Israel's desire for a king wrong-headed? What should they have wanted?
4. Is Saul a bad guy? Why or why not? Is Saul set up for failure, or merely a pawn in God's plan?
5. Pastor Eric said that Saul is a foil. What did he mean by this? Against whom is Saul a foil? What point is made, through Saul's deficiencies?
6. How do we cultivate godly affections? How do we resist worldly desires?
7. How do we generate a love for God supremely?