

Royalty

SERMON TITLE: The Demise of the King

DATE: March 26, 2023

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 13:1-15

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SERIES SUMMARY

The Bible is the story of God as King and becoming King in Jesus. And we are his image bearers, created for royal reflection. But we don't live in a monarchy, so "kingship" and "royalty" can feel like foreign ideas to us. Yet, we're still called to recognize and submit to God as King. And in the Old Testament, it was God's desire for a king to reign over his people as a reminder of these things. So, what do the kings of old teach us about ourselves, our need, our calling, and our God? How can the lives and reigns of Saul, David, and Solomon be instructive to us as God's people today? How should royalty shape identity? And most importantly, how do all of these things make us look to Jesus as the King of kings?

SERMON SUMMARY

In 1 Samuel 13, we begin to see the demise of King Saul. Saul is a man with a better plan. When put under pressure, he reasons his way into compromising his identity as God's chosen king. He ignores what God says in favor of what seems right in his own eyes. The Big Idea: The pressures of our circumstances can bend us out of the shape God has designed us to be unless we value God's Word above the self-justifying words, we tell ourselves—words that make disobeying God seem reasonable.

SERMON SCREENSHOTS & KEY POINTS

The question is: How do we resist the pressures of difficult circumstances that can bend us out of the shape God created us to be?

We find an answer to this question in the story of Saul and the Philistines in 1 Samuel 13. Saul made a decision that was just "one degree" off, but it changed the whole trajectory of his life. We learn something about sin works from Saul...

The Anatomy of Sin

- First, we feel some kind of pressure bearing down on us.
- Second, we reason that what God says may not be all that important.
- Third, we compromise our values and identity.
- Fourth, we make excuses and shift the blame. And if we're not careful, that can become a repeated pattern in our lives.

So, what do we learn about spiritual formation from this chapter in the life of Saul? When pressure comes, and we cave under the pressure, we can speak the language of pride or the language of humility. God values humility and resists the proud. It's what we value most that makes the difference in what language we speak.

SUGGESTIONS FOR COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Have someone read 1 Samuel 13:1-15

1. How do you feel when you read this story about Saul making one mistake that causes God to remove the kingship from his family line?
2. What exactly was Saul's sin?
3. Why would one mistake like this provoke God to take such drastic action?
4. How dangerous is it to listen to the voices in your head rather than the voice of God?
5. Why are our "explanations" (excuses) as to why we did or didn't do something God has clearly commanded us always inadequate?
6. Do you ever find yourself ignoring what God has said, but asking for His help?

7. Why is “helplessness” not the same as “hopelessness?”

Recommended commentaries for the “Royalty” Series: *1 Samuel for You and 2 Samuel for You*, both by Tim Chester; *1 and 2 Samuel for Everyone*, by John Goldingay; *1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings* (four excellent, separate commentaries), by Dale Ralph Davis; and *1 & 2 Samuel*, by Joyee G. Baldwin. Also, I (Charlie) have benefited from the teachings of Tim Keller, Andy Stanley, Tim Mackie, and others whom I will credit during my messages. I have adapted and borrowed insights and illustrations from others and incorporated them into the messages in this series.