

"God's Love Story Sermon Outlines"

by Doug Hamilton

Section 12: "Saul -The Rejecter of God's Love Story" (1Samuel Chapters 1-15)

The year was late afternoon in 1010 BC, on a large hill named Gilboa in the nation of Israel. King Saul, the first king of Israel, was fighting for his life. Panic gripped his eyes as he could see the arrows of a thousand Philistines reigning down on him. He was boxed in with nowhere to go. Hearing the cries of hundreds of his men being massacred, he had decisions to be made. His three sons, Jonathon, Abinadab and Malchi-shua, turn to him for direction and outcome, knowing it was not a positive outcome. His soldiers were dropping like flies.

With just a handful of men and completely surrounded, King Saul took a couple of arrows to the torso, severely injuring him. The wicked Philistines, the ones that plucked Samson's eyes out and made him a laughingstock, would likely do the same to Saul if given a chance at capture.. This was something he could not allow, so he asked his armor bearer *"Draw your sword and pierce me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and pierce me through and make sport of me."* The armor bearer refused out of fear of striking down royalty, so Saul committed suicide by bracing his royal sword up to his heart and falling on it.

The Philistines came about the next day to strip the slain. Finding Saul and his three sons, they rejoiced over the death of their adversary. They cut off his head (probably out of retaliation of their warrior Goliath) and placed it in the temple of Dagon at Philistia (1Chr 10:10). They displayed his headless body on the city wall of Beth Shan (seven miles East of Mount Gilboa) and his royal armor in the heathen temple of Ashtaroth. What a sad ending to a life. Listen to some of the words spoken later by David concerning the sadness of the moment.

2 Sam 1:19-27 "Your beauty, O Israel, is slain on your high places! How have the mighty fallen!...²¹ "O mountains of Gilboa, let not dew or rain be on you, nor fields of offerings; for there the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul, not anointed with oil"...²⁴ "O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet, who put ornaments of gold on your apparel"...²⁷ "How have the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!"

How could this King, which stood a head taller than the crowd (1Sam 9:2), have his headless corpse shamefully on display before the enemy? Saul's life is a documentary on rejection of God's Love Story.

D) Israel's Rejection of God as King

1 Sam 8:4-5 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah;⁵ and they said to him, "Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations."

- Samuel knew this was not a good thing and had a talk with God. God responded to Samuel in verse 7 *"Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them."* He

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went back to the people and reminded them of the costs at stake. A king will draft their young men into the army, force labor upon them and impose taxes to run the kingdom. He sternly warned the people that there would come a day that they would regret that decision. *1Sam 8:19-20 Nevertheless, the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel, and they said, "No, but there shall be a king over us,²⁰ that we also may be like all the nations, that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."* It was in this rejection of God Love's Story that ushered in the appearance of a young man named Saul.

1 Sam 9:1-2 "Now there was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish...² And he had a son whose name was Saul, a choice and handsome {man,} and there was not a more handsome person than he among the sons of Israel; from his shoulders and up he was taller than any of the people."

- It was young Saul that ventured out to find some lost donkeys. God told Samuel that Saul was coming and was His choice for king (1Sam 9:16). Before the night was over, Samuel would be anointing Saul as the first future king of Israel. *1 Sam 9:27-10:1 As they were going down to the edge of the city, Samuel said to Saul, "Say to the servant that he might go ahead of us and pass on, but you remain standing now, that I may proclaim the word of God to you."^{10 1} Then Samuel took the flask of oil, poured it on his head, kissed him and said, "Has not the LORD anointed you a ruler over His inheritance? God's Love Story shined upon Saul.*

II) Saul's Rejection to becoming King

- Saul initially rejected being the King of Israel. 1 Sam 10:20-24 tells us that during the acceptance speech of becoming king, Saul could not be found. Verse 22 *Therefore they inquired further of the LORD, "Has the man come here yet?" So the LORD said, "Behold, he is hiding himself by the baggage."* God was calling on Saul to fill the position of king and he was hiding in the luggage like a bellhop. He was initially rejecting God's Love Story in his life.

III) Saul's Rejection of God's Word

- Samuel told Saul in 1 Sam 15:3 to *"go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey."* 1 Sam 15:9 says *"But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were not willing to destroy them utterly; but everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed."* This is called selective obedience. Saul was to wipe out everything and everyone, but saved some goodies to "honor" God. The LORD wants our full obedience and not partial. He did a similar thing in 1Sam 13 while assuming the role of a

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priest. His problem was he did what he wanted to do. He continued on rejecting God's Love Story in his life by the way he lived.

IV) God's Rejection of Saul as King

- When Samuel arrived the next day, he said in *1 Sam 15:14* "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" Saul tried to make it sound like he followed instructions, but was prevented from doing it through certain circumstances.
- Samuel communicated God's displeasure with Saul. *1 Sam 15:22-23* And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, {And} to heed than the fat of rams. 23 "For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from {being} king." Saul, because of his rejection of God's Love Story, was rejected from being king from there on out. Even though he would be king for many more years, his reign was over in God's eyes.

V) Saul's Rejection of David

- With King Saul being rejected by God, Samuel was sent out to anoint another person as King. His name was David (1Sam 16). David, who was secretly anointed, would eventually show up at a battlefield in 1 Sam 17 and take on a giant named Goliath. This won the King Saul's daughter's hand in marriage.
- David grew mighty in the Lord and was very successful in battle. According to *1 Sam 18:7* the women sang as they played, and said, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." This angered Saul and he sought to kill his new son-in-law. Twice he tried to kill him with the javelin (1Sam 18:11; 19:9-11); he ordered him to be put to death (1Sam 18:11). David fled, Saul killed those who helped him (1Sam 22) and pursued David even to the edges of the country (1 Sam 24:1-2). Saul completely rejects God's Love Story in David's life.

VI) God's Personal Rejection of Saul

- That leads us to the last rejection of God's Love Story, a personal rejection of thus from the life of Saul. In 1 Sam 28, we find an interesting event occur. The Philistines were "gathered their armed camps for war, to fight against Israel." Samuel had been dead for some time and Saul was mentally at the end of his rope. It says in verse 5 "...Saul saw the camp of the Philistines, he was afraid and his heart trembled greatly." He tried seeking guidance from God, but the "the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by prophets" (Vs 6). He consulted a spiritualist referred to as the "witch at Endor", something illegal and awful in the eyes of the Lord. The Lord sent the spirit of Samuel back from the dead with a message for Saul, announcing that he would die the

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next day. Here is personal rejection of Saul concerning God's Love Story from ever being a part of his life.

Five Lessons from the Life of King Saul Concerning God's Love Story

1) Never do anything that is based on rejection.

- Saul's opportunity was the result of a people in rejection to the plans of God. He warned them, but they did not listen. They reaped what they sowed (Galatians 6:7).
- Christians are a people who have embraced God's Love Story in their lives. Our foundation is anchored in hope. We feel special because a special God had a special Son with a special hope that we have tied into. We must make sure we never forget God's Love Story as the center of our life.

2) Never reject the position God places you in.

- Saul was resistant to him being king because he could not see the great opportunity before him.
- We might not like the position that God places us in this life. We might fail to see that God has greater things planned for us. Don't worry through rejection of it, but attempt to see where God is going to use you to glorify Him. Never reject your position in God's Love Story.

3) Never reject the words of God.

- God gave Saul specific commands to be obeyed, but Saul only went 90% of the way. A partial rejection of God's word is equivalent to a full rejection of God's Love Story.
- There are many things that we know God commands us on. On those things we must strive to carry out to demonstrate to us and God that we take serious his love story.

4) Never reject God's rejection.

- When Saul was initially rejected from being king, he rejected God's rejection by trying to fight against God's will.
- We as Christians understand that there will be times that we fall short of the glory of God. Don't give up and go heathen, but repent and get back on track.

5) Never reject the people of God.

- Saul lashed out against the new and upcoming King David. He could not contemplate the idea that there was someone else that God was bringing up as the leader of the people of Israel.
- In God's Love Story, everybody has a place on the team. Some people are gifted in some ways, but weak in others. Others are strong in our weaknesses and weak in our strengths. Together we help each other on our way to heaven. Never take out your personal problems on the people of God, for it will lead to disaster in our lives.