

We need to learn to listen to God.

1. Trust in His Word

1. Deuteronomy 17

14 "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', 15 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. 16 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.' 17 And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.

18 "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[c] the Levitical priests. 19 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, 20 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.

2. Looking at others isn't going to satisfy you

1. Comparing yourself with this world is going to make you dissatisfied

19 But the people refused to obey 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, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles." 21 And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the Lord. 22 And the Lord said to Samuel, "Obey their voice and make them a king." Samuel then said to the men of Israel, "Go every man to his city."

2. What this world wants isn't always right

1. 1 Samuel 9

There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of wealth. 2 And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upwards he was taller than any of the people.

3. Embrace Distinction

1. God is calling us to be distinct. To be a people set apart – but sometimes we're trying so hard to be "in", chasing the same things as the people around us, that we lose what makes us distinct.

2. Repent! And ask God to burn in your heart his heart again.

3. We see in Saul, a bit of a mirror image of Israel. It's sad, because instead of leading the people, he is just a reflection of the people

1. 1 Samuel 10:20 Then Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot. 21 He brought the tribe of Benjamin near by its clans, and the clan of the Matrites was taken by lot; and Saul the son of Kish was taken by lot. But when they sought him, he could not be found. 22 So they enquired again of the Lord, "Is there a man still to come?" and the Lord said, "Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage." 23 Then they ran and took him from there.

And when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upwards. 24 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." And all the people shouted, "Long live the king!"

3. Know God, Trust God, Love God

1. Saul never sets his heart onto God. Never trusts God.

2. Don't Panic – Trust God

1. 2 Saul chose three thousand men of Israel. Two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and the hill country of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. The rest of the people he sent home, every man to his tent. 3 Jonathan defeated the garrison of the Philistines that was at Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, "Let the Hebrews hear." 4 And all Israel heard it said that Saul had defeated the garrison of the Philistines, and also that Israel had become a stench to the Philistines. And the people were called out to join Saul at Gilgal.

5 And the Philistines mustered to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen and troops like the sand on the seashore in multitude. They came up and encamped in Michmash, to the east of Beth-aven. 6 When the men of Israel saw that they were in trouble (for the people were hard pressed), the people hid themselves in caves and in holes and in rocks and in tombs and in cisterns, 7 and some Hebrews crossed the fords of the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul was still at Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

2. 8 He waited for seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him. 9 So Saul said, "Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering. 10 As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came. And Saul went out to meet him and greet him. 11 Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash, 12 I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the favour of the Lord.' So I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering." 13 And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God, with which he commanded you. For then the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel for ever.

3. Obedience over sacrifice?

1. Your heart should lead you into action

2. Doing stuff, for the sake of doing it – but empty heart (being ontime to church)

*"Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,
as in obeying the voice of the Lord?*

*Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,
and to listen than the fat of rams.*

*23 For rebellion is as the sin of divination,
and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry.*

*Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,
he has also rejected you from being king."*

*4. Proverbs 4:23 – Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.*

20 My son, be attentive to my words;

- incline your ear to my sayings.*
- 21 *Let them not escape from your sight;
keep them within your heart.*
- 22 *For they are life to those who find them,
and healing to all their[b] flesh.*
- 23 *Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.*
- 24 *Put away from you crooked speech,
and put devious talk far from you.*
- 25 *Let your eyes look directly forwards,
and your gaze be straight before you.*
- 26 *Ponder the path of your feet;
then all your ways will be sure.*
- 27 *Do not swerve to the right or to the left;
turn your foot away from evil.*

Examine Your Heart

Ask God to Clean Your Heart – desires / motivations

- 1. Ask Him : What does he want you to change in your daily routine***
- 2. Ask Him : What does he want you to change in the way you treat others***
- 3. Ask Him : What does he want you to change in your dreams and desires***

Obey