

The Man God Seeks

Text : **I Samuel 8: 1-20** (**Psa. 78: 70-72**)

INTRODUCTION :

A. All men belong to God.

1. **Psa. 24: 1-** The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains,
The world, and those who dwell in it.
2. Like teenage children most men rebel against their heavenly father.

B. Of all the people who should NOT have rebelled against God, Israel is foremost.

1. **Read ... Deut. 32: 7-14**
2. Think of all Israel had received from God :
 - a. Deliverance from slavery (*male children being killed*)
 - b. Passed through the sea ... powerful enemy destroyed
 - c. Water in the desert
 - d. Food where none grew (*Manna and quail*)
 - e. Appeared on the mountain and gave them His law
 - f. Defended the against their enemies (*Amalek*)
 - g. Shoes and clothing did not rot for 40 years
 - h. God lead them with a cloud by day and fire by night. (*shade and security*)
 - i. Entered Promised Land on dry ground
 - j. God fought their battles for them. (*Jericho*)
* ***What king could fight more successfully than God ?***
 - k. More miracles were done for Israel than for any other nation.
3. **Our text** ... They rejected God to be like the world. **AMERICA TODAY !!**

C. They wanted to be like the nations round about, but God chose them and called them out to be different.

1. They were to be an example to the world ... a light in darkness.
2. **Exod. 19: 4-6** You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself.* **5** 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; **6** and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."
3. They were not to let the nations influence them. (**Deut. 7: 1-11, Exod. 23: 32-33**)

D. Though He knew it was not good for them, he gave them what they wanted.

1. Saul was kingly in the sight of the world.
 - a. Strong
 - b. “Tall, dark and handsome”
2. Saul did not follow the path of obedience as Samuel had done.
 - a. Faithful Samuel was mentoring Saul during the transition.
 - b. Saul took upon himself to function as priest and prophet ... *offered sacrifice*.
3. When the king did not submit to God, God withdrew from him.
 - a. Without God’s blessing, success is limited.
 - b. **Prov. 16: 12-** It is an abomination for kings to commit wicked acts,
For a throne is established on righteousness .
 - c. **Dan. 4: 17-** This sentence is by the decree of the angelic watchers And the decision is a command of the holy ones, In order that the living may know that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, And bestows it on whom He wishes And sets over it the lowliest of men.” (cf - **2:21 , 4:25 , 5:21**)

E. When God replaced the king, He chose one suitable to Him ... not to men.

1. Men judge by externals.
 - a. Physical characteristics
 - b. Intellectual power
2. **I Samuel 16** ... God sent Samuel to the house of Jesse to choose a replacement.
 - a. He began to choose one who appeared to be a leader.
 - b. **Vs. 7** ... Samuel not to judge the prospects based upon man’s standard.
3. God chose David ... the least likely to be selected by man.
 - a. Young and fair
 - b. Doing menial task

The standard that God set for the king of HIS nation :

I Sam. 13: 14- But now your kingdom shall not endure. The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you. (*heart completely attuned to God*)

David was not a sinless man. How was he “a man after God’s own heart ?”

Let’s observe 3 characteristics of David’s heart that made him God’s choice.

I. God wants men with a spiritual heart.

A. What does it mean to be a spiritual man ?

1. Not miraculous, not mystical, and not mysterious.
2. It is simply a man whose life is in harmony with God.
3. What is important to God is important to the spiritual man.

* *Spiritual = If it burdens God it burdens you.*

B. A spiritual man obeys God.

1. If God says “**Do this.**” he does it without question or complaint.
2. When God says “**This is wrong.**” he’ll stop right then and never do it again.
3. Saul had God’s command, but did what he thought would please the people.

* *The spiritual man responds with obedience to the written or the spoken word.*

C. God is looking for men whose hearts are completely and totally HIS.

1. That means that there are no locked doors.
 - a. Not say to God ... “*You can have this area of my life, but not this other one.*”
 - b. When God shows you a defect in your life, you don’t sweep it under the rug.
 - c. You will never say, “I know I really should _____ , but”
2. The man who is in tuned with God (*is spiritual*) is vastly concerned about the things that displease Him.
 - a. You will not do things that displease Him.
 - b. Being spiritual is not just sprinkling a little of God here and there in your life.
 - c. The man after God’s own heart surrenders his entire value system to God’s.

* *The man who seeks to be a man after God’s heart is more concerned about displeasing God than about pleasing people.*

3. The man after God’s heart will be a faithful man.
 - a. *God has nowhere said for you to be successful, but He has commanded you many times to be faithful.*
 - b. “**When the Son of Man comes will He find faith on the earth?**” **Luke 18:8**

D. The man after God’s heart will not allow evil in his house or in his heart.

II. I Samuel 16 ... God wants men who are humble servants.

A. When Samuel arrived at Jesse’s house, they showed him sons like Saul.

1. God rejected the big, strong, older brothers.
Vs. 7- But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”
2. When asked, “Are these all the children?”, Jesse replied :
 - a. **Sam. 16: 11-** ... “There remains yet the youngest, and behold, he is tending the sheep.” Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.”
 - b. While all of the others were at the feast, David was off working, obeying.
3. Even after David was anointed king, he continued doing the most humble job.
 - a. **Sam. 16:19-** So Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, “Send me your son David who is with the flock.”
 - b. God wants men who will serve His people.
 - c. David quietly did as he was told by his father and by the one he was to replace.

B. If you are a Christian you are a servant. What is a servant ?

1. A servant is one who does the will of another.
 - a. He surrenders his will and his desires to another.
 - b. If he is a “faithful servant” he can be relied upon seek the interest of his master.
 2. He is loyal; he serves faithfully and quietly.
 - a. He serves without accolades or appreciation.
 - b. His duty is make his master look good, not himself.
 3. That’s what David was, a nobody.
- * *God elevated that nobody to be a somebody because he was faithful.
If you serve God faithfully like David did, He’ll elevated you as well.*

III. God wants men of integrity.

- A. **Psalms 78:70-72** He also chose David His servant And took him from the sheepfolds;
71From the care of the ewes with suckling lambs He brought him to shepherd Jacob His people, And Israel His inheritance. **72** So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them with his skillful hands.

B. God seeks men of integrity to serve Him. What is integrity.

1. Webster defines “*Integrity*” as being :
“The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness.”

2. Enhanced Strong's Lexicon defines the Hebrew "tome" as :
"1_A completeness, fulness. 1_B innocence, simplicity. 1_C integrity"

*** C. A man's integrity is the essence of his character.**

1. It is what you do when no one is watching you.
2. It is what motivates the actions of a man.
3. Trustworthiness stems from integrity of heart.

D. God is looking for far more than mere external acts.

1. God looks at the motives of a man's heart. (**I Cor. 4:5** , **Heb. 4: 12**)
2. God seeks men whose whole heart is devoted to Him. (**LOVE**)
3. God seeks men who earnestly desire with all their heart to please Him.

E. A man of integrity will pass his values down to his children.

1. Love of God, family and country
2. Work for what he wants and never steal
3. To be a loving and loyal person ... not selfish
4. To discipline themselves so others don't have to discipline them
5. To do their work without grumbling
7. To never make excuses, but own up to your mistakes and learn from them

F. A man of integrity lives the same way wherever he is.

1. In the public, in the home, in the church
2. If it's not real, the man's a hypocrite.

CONCLUSION :

A. I challenge us all to be the men God wants us to be.

1. Let us be spiritual people.
2. Let us be humble and active servants.
3. Let us be people of integrity.

B. May we stand for God everywhere we happen to be. (*Integrity is easy at home.*)

1. Pray God the church will never be run down because of our words or deeds.
2. *One can only stand for God if he is at one with Him.* **Are you in Christ ?**

Lesson Text :**I Samuel 8: 1-20**

1 And it came about when Samuel was old that he appointed his sons judges over Israel. **2** Now the name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; *they* were judging in Beersheba. **3** His sons, however, did not walk in his ways, but turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice.

4 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.” **6** But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” And Samuel prayed to the LORD. **7** The LORD said to Samuel, “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. **8** Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day—in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also. **9** Now then, listen to their voice; however, you shall solemnly warn them and tell them of the procedure of the king who will reign over them.”

10 So Samuel spoke all the words of the LORD to the people who had asked of him a king. **11** He said, “This will be the procedure of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and place *them* for himself in his chariots and among his horsemen and they will run before his chariots. **12** He will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and of fifties, and *some* to do his plowing and to reap his harvest and to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. **13** He will also take your daughters for perfumers and cooks and bakers. **14** He will take the best of your fields and your vineyards and your olive groves and give *them* to his servants. **15** He will take a tenth of your seed and of your vineyards and give to his officers and to his servants. **16** He will also take your male servants and your female servants and your best young men and your donkeys and use *them* for his work. **17** He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his servants. **18** Then you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day.”

19 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.”