



**WEIRD:** cause normal isn't working.

1 Samuel 8-16

**You will never influence the world if you are trying to be like it.**

The Beatles changed culture because they were different.

**What Israel didn't see is that God didn't call them to be like those around them, actually the opposite is true, God called them to be different.**

He called them to be...

**WEIRD:**

And even though this wasn't God's plan or choice, He finally relents and lets them have a king.

### **1 Samuel 8:4-9**

<sup>4</sup>So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. <sup>5</sup>They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."

<sup>6</sup>But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. <sup>7</sup>And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, **but they have rejected me as their king.** <sup>8</sup>As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. <sup>9</sup>Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them

know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights.”

The first king of Israel is a man named Saul. Listen to what the Bible says about him...

### **1 Samuel 9:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>There was a Benjamite, a man of standing, whose name was Kish son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bekorath, the son of Aphiah of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup>Kish had a son named Saul, as handsome a young man as could be found anywhere in Israel, and he was a head taller than anyone else.

So God gives them what they are asking for, a strong, handsome, tall king. A warrior. God gives them what they wanted, but it was not what they needed.

The next few chapters of 1 Samuel tell the story of Saul leading the people. At first he seeks God’s approval. He inquires of God how to proceed. He has victory over Israel’s enemies.

But it’s not long before he begins to get ahead of God and sees his role and position as greater than God.

1 Samuel 15, God tells King Saul through his prophet Samuel to go and destroy the Amalekites including everything they own.

### **1 Samuel 15:7-9**

<sup>7</sup>Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, near the eastern border of Egypt. <sup>8</sup>He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword. <sup>9</sup>But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.

King Saul does not listen to God. He does not destroy all of the Amalekites, he spares the king and keeps the best of the sheep and cattle.

## **1 Samuel 15:10-12**

<sup>10</sup>Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel: <sup>11</sup>"I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions." Samuel was angry, and he cried out to the Lord all that night.

<sup>12</sup>Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, "Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honor and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal."

I wouldn't think that God has many regrets. But here's one. He regrets having made Saul king. Why? Because he turned away from God and disobeyed.

He even thinks so highly of himself that he sets up a monument in his own honor.

When Samuel finally catches up to him, Saul tries to misdirect and lie about what he has done.

## **1 Samuel 15:13-15**

<sup>13</sup>When Samuel reached him, Saul said, "The Lord bless you! I have carried out the Lord's instructions."

<sup>14</sup>But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?"

<sup>15</sup>Saul answered, "The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the Lord your God, but we totally destroyed the rest."

How stupid does Saul think Samuel is? Saul lies and tries to place blame on the soldiers. Those same men who risked their lives for Saul, he now blames for his disobedience.

## **1 Samuel 15:16-21**

<sup>16</sup>"Enough!" Samuel said to Saul. "Let me tell you what the Lord said to me last night."

"Tell me," Saul replied.

<sup>17</sup>Samuel said, "Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel. <sup>18</sup>And he sent you on a mission, saying, 'Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; wage war against them until you have wiped them out.' <sup>19</sup>Why did you not obey the Lord? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the Lord?"

<sup>20</sup>"But I did obey the Lord," Saul said. "I went on the mission the Lord assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. <sup>21</sup>The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the Lord your God at Gilgal."

Again, Saul tries to deflect and blame others for his disobedience. Saul says, "I completely destroyed the Amalekites.... and brought back Agag their king." In the same sentence he claims to have destroyed the Amalekites but brought back their king.

Then he tries to make it look like he was going to sacrifice the sheep and cattle to God. But Samuel is having none of it....

## **1 Samuel 15:22-23**

<sup>22</sup>But Samuel replied:

"Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord?

To obey is better than sacrifice,  
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

<sup>23</sup>For rebellion is like the sin of divination,  
and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.  
Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,  
he has rejected you as king.”

### **God’s judgement of Saul is swift and sure.**

There is no substitute for obedience. There is no gift greater than service. There are no spoils of war more valuable than humility.

And just like that God rejects Saul as king.

At the end of chapter 15 it simply states that Samuel never saw King Saul again. God regrets having made Saul king of Israel.

**Chapter 16.** God sends Samuel to a man named Jesse who lives in Bethlehem to anoint one of his sons as the next king.

#### **1 Samuel 16:6-7**

<sup>6</sup>When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord.”

<sup>7</sup>But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Samuel sees one of Jesse’s sons, Eliab, and thinks, “This must be the one! He looks like a king.” God says something remarkable to Samuel. “Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart.”

Jesse has all of his sons who are there to come before Samuel, but God did not choose any of these sons.

## **1 Samuel 16:11-12**

<sup>11</sup>So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep."

Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

<sup>12</sup>So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one."

Samuel anoints David as the next King of Israel. It would take several years before this would happen. David serves Saul. David becomes a mighty warrior. Saul becomes jealous. Saul tries to kill David.

Listen to how David is described after Saul had gotten ahead of God and made a sacrifice without waiting for Samuel in 1 Samuel 13...

## **1 Samuel 13:14**

<sup>14</sup>But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

It was David who God refers to as 'a man after God's own heart' and he will lead God's people as their Shepherd King. Did you notice anything about where David was from? Bethlehem.

You know who else was born in Bethlehem? Jesus. Why? Because Joseph and Mary were descendants of David.

Saul squandered his opportunity for his family to be a part of Jesus genealogy because of his disobedience.

Takeaways...

**SOME LEADERS ONLY LOOK GOOD ON THE OUTSIDE:** GODLY LEADERS LOOK GOOD ON THE INSIDE

Saul looked like a king on the outside, but his actions revealed that he was only skin deep. At his core, Saul was in it for himself. To make a name for himself.

David was described as a “man after God’s own heart.” In other words, he wanted what God wanted. His heart was true. Not perfect, but true. He wanted what God wanted.

**SOME LEADERS HEARTS ARE DECEITFUL:** GODLY LEADERS HEARTS ARE TRUE

Saul lied and tried to deceive Samuel. He thought he was smarter than God. He disobeyed God and then blamed others.

David, on the other hand, had a heart that was true.

**SOME LEADERS MAKE THEMSELVES LOOK GOOD:** GODLY LEADERS MAKE GOD LOOK GOOD

Saul was more concerned about how he looked to Israel and those kingdoms around Israel instead of how he looked in God’s eyes.

David followed God with his whole heart and made God look good.

1 Samuel 8. Samuel is disturbed that the people want a king and not him to be their leader. God says something profound.

**1 Samuel 8:7**

<sup>7</sup>And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, **but they have rejected me as their king.**

**It's not about you, it's about me. It's about how Israel feels about me, not you.**

**May we never be guilty of rejecting God as our king. No matter our politics, no matter who is president, no matter what everyone around us is doing... God is our King.**

Guiding principles from Jesus, to get us through an election year.

**PUT GOD FIRST.**

**Mark 12:30**

<sup>30</sup>Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

**PUT OTHERS SECOND.**

**Mark 12:31**

<sup>31</sup>The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

**LOVE LIKE JESUS.**

**Luke 7:31**

<sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you.



# Small Group Questions.

1. Why, as a country, do we become so divided on politics? How do we have differing opinions without being divided? How should the church look during these times?
2. David said, "You will never influence the world around if you are trying to be like it." What are your thoughts on this statement? Read Romans 12:1 - 2. What does this tell about how we are to live and why?
3. 1 Samuel 16:7 - Why do we sometimes choose leaders based on their outward appearance? What do you think it means for God to "look at a persons heart"?
4. Read Mark 12: 30 - 31: Is there anything interesting you found in this passage? Read Exodus 20: 1-17- Do you see any correlation between the the first 10 commandments and what Jesus is saying?
5. Talk in your groups how you can be an positive influence during this election year.