

An evil spirit of the Lord
5/13/07 BCC

The people demand a king to be like the nations around them.

1 Sam. 8: 21, 22 21 And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD. 22 And the LORD said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city.

As we look at this situation I do not think we can perceive the gravity of this circumstance from the Lord's perspective. God had chosen a people out of all the earth and showed His love for them up to this point and now after all the wonderful miracles God had done for these people and all the lessons He had personally taught them, and all the mercy He had shown them; they reject Him as their personal leader (just like we reject the leading of the Holy Spirit today but call ourselves saved) and desire a human king. Today we think more of human counsel and psychiatrist and psychologist than we do to follow the word of God. We want God's help when we are in trouble but we do not want too intimate a relationship because of the constant conviction we fall under when we get too close to sin while trying to be intimate with God.

Let's think about this and see if we can identify with things we might be doing today that amount to the same kind of rejection.

1. Praying for parole and saying I am leaving it in God's hands, then hiring a lawyer, getting relatives to go to the parole board just in case God can not accomplish this alone or praying to be released from a situation making promises to serve God afterwards only to forsake Him after He delivers us. 2. Desiring a Restoration House and praying for it if it is God's will then getting upset with God when it does not happen in our time. 3. When we reject God's decision or get upset with what we feel is a lack of action within our time frame on God's part, in a way we are suggesting He can not do or will not do something we need. In a way it is like rejecting God like the Israelites rejected Him. We could think of many more items of similar consequence which God looks at in much the same way as he did when His people chose a king over His. 4. Trying to get even with someone who has wronged us contrary to God's will when He says He will look out after us.

Let us look at what the Israelites actually got for their request for a king?

1 Sam. 9:1, 2 1 Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name [was] Kish, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power. 2 And he had a son, whose name [was] Saul, a choice young man, (in the eyes of man) and a goodly; and [there was] not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward [he was] higher than any of the people. (We know God looks at the heart and man looks at the outer man, so since it was the Israelites idea to seek a king God chooses one that would appeal to their standard, a man that would impress them.)

1 Sam. 10:1-7 1 Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured [it] upon his head, and kissed him, and said, [Is it] not because the LORD hath anointed thee [to be] captain over his inheritance? 2 When thou art departed from me to day, then thou shalt find two men by Rachel's sepulchre in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say unto thee, The asses which thou wentest to seek are found: and, lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorroweth for you, saying, What shall I do for my son? 3 Then shalt thou go on forward from thence, and thou shalt come to the plain of Tabor, and there shall meet thee three men going up to God to Bethel, one carrying three kids, and another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a bottle of wine: 4 And they will salute thee, and give thee two [loaves] of bread; which thou shalt receive of their hands. 5 After that thou shalt come to the hill of God, where [is] the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy: 6 And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man. 7 And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, [that] thou do as occasion serve thee; for God [is] with thee (*God is definitely showing Saul that God Himself is choosing him as king. And by these signs or proofs God is assuring Saul that he will need to follow the Lord because God is showing him He is with Saul.*)

1 Sam. 10:9 And it was [so], that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day. These signs should have made Saul sure there was no doubt God had chosen him.

Mt Henry Cmty - 1Sam 10:8 Gave him another heart- (The Spirit of God changes men, wonderfully transforms them. Saul, by praising God in the communion of saints, became *another* man, but it may be questioned if he became a *new* man.) God did something to Saul's heart what He did is not exactly clear because we see Saul does not have His heart set on obedience to the Lord and especially submission to God. Saul makes some very clear decisions that are contrary to God's will, and it was not out of ignorance that he made these decisions.

Heb. 13:5 [Let your] conversation [be] without covetousness; [and be] content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. This is one of God's promises; however God's Word also says:

Deut. 31: 16,17 16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go [to be] among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them. 17 Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God [is] not among us

Josh. 24:20 If ye forsake (*to depart from, leave behind, let alone, abandon, neglect*) the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.

1 Chr. 28:9 And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect (complete, safe, peaceful, perfect, whole, full, at peace) heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

(Saul forsakes God) 1 Sam. 13:7-13 7 And [some of] the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he [was] yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. 8 And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel [had appointed]: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. 9 And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. 10 And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. 11 And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and [that] thou camest not within the days appointed, and [that] the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; (Saul is supposed to be the king the people's leader but he does not seem to be leading) 12 Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering. (Saul always has an excuse for doing wrong even when he admits it is sin he does not repent) 13 And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

1 Sam 14: 52 And there was sore war against the Philistines all the days of Saul: and when Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he took him unto him. (God had warned the people this and other things would happen when they had a king.)

(We see Saul asking counsel of God but this is not something he does often enough during his reign.)

1 Sam. 14: 24-30 24 And the men of Israel were distressed that day: for Saul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed [be] the man that eateth [any] food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies. So none of the people tasted [any] food. 25 And all [they of] the land came to a wood; and there was honey upon the ground. 26 And when the people were come into the wood, behold, the honey dropped; but no man put his hand to his mouth: for the people feared the oath. 27 But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath: wherefore he put forth the end of the rod that [was] in his hand, and dipped it in a honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened. 28 Then answered one of the people, and said, Thy father straitly charged the people with an oath, saying, Cursed [be] the man that eateth [any] food this day. And the people were faint. 29 Then said Jonathan, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey. 30 How much more, if haply the people had eaten freely to day of the spoil of their enemies which they found? For had there not been now a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?

1 Sam. 14 43 Then Saul said to Jonathan, Tell me what thou hast done. And Jonathan told him, and said, I did but taste a little honey with the end of the rod that [was] in mine hand, [and], lo, I must die.

(Saul forsakes God) 1 Sam. 15:1-3 1 Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee [to be] king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD. 2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember [that] which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid [wait] for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. 3 Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass. This scripture seems to be very clear and Saul was told to hearken to the voice of the words of God, however Saul forsakes God commandment and deviates for some reason. This angers the Lord but remember it is not that Saul was not a good choice, or that God had not preparer Him God was telling Saul every step to take and everything to do just like in the garden, all Saul need to do was obey, he chose not to. Today people feel called of God for many reasons, but then they hit a snag and make a choice to do something their way instead of God's way, this is **forsaking** God. If one is truly saved this is a momentary incident and through

conviction of the Holy Spirit the saved one would repent and revert back to God's will and abandon their will. This all comes under the Lordship of Jesus in a believer's life, sacrificing ones will, presenting our body as a living sacrifice holy and acceptable unto God. **2 Cor.12: 7** And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure

1 Sam. 15: 8-11 8 And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. 9 But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all [that was] good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing [that was] vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly. 10 Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying, 11 It repenteth me that I have set up Saul [to be] king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments.

1 Sam. 15: 19-22 19 Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD? 20 And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, (like with Eve Saul deviates from what God says but does what he wants out of what he was told to do) and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. 21 But the people took of the spoil, (again Saul blames the people but as king or leader he is responsible for what they do) sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal. 22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD [as great] delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD 24 And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. 25 Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD. 26 And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel

Saul admits he has sinned but there is no sign of Godly sorrow or turning away from his will over God.

2 Chr. 15:1, 2 1 And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded: 2 And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD [is] with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake (*same as in Josh above*) him, he will forsake you.

(When a Christian truly believes and receives Jesus he is sealed with the Holy Spirit, however in the Old Testament the Holy Spirit fell upon the prophets and was not necessarily present all the time. When someone God is calling continues to reject or forsake Him, His Word, His Holy Spirit, this is evidence of not being saved or as in Saul's case that he was not willing to submit to God's will and be obedient. I think this pretty much dismisses the idea of some about obedience not being necessary once saved, instead without the desire to obey there is no true repentance, therefore there is no true salvation. (Before David killed his tens of thousands, Saul lead Israel to many victories through the power of God. God more than proved Himself to Saul as He does to anyone who remains in His presence for any length of time. When Goliath mocked the armies of God, Saul could have defeated him with the help of the Lord but he did not cry out to the Lord, instead he let an untrained boy fight against a seasoned warrior with his kingdom as the reward for the winner. Like Pharaoh of Egypt who held the children of God against their will, Saul refused to repent even though he admitted he had sinned against God. This is what the word means when it says Satan believes and trembles.

(First sign of the evil spirit when the Holy Spirit departs from Saul)

1 Sam. 16: 13-16 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. 14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him. 15 And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee. 16 Let our lord now command thy servants, [which are] before thee, to seek out a man, [who is] a cunning player on an harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well (I am sure if Saul would have repented even though the kingdom was being taken from Him he would have been much better off in the long run, as it is he dies in disobedience to God)

(Jealousy bring on the evil spirit again) 1 Sam 18: 8-11 8 And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed [but] thousands: and [what] can he have more but the kingdom? 9 And Saul eyed David from that day and forward. 10 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and [there was] a javelin in Saul's hand. 11 And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall [with it]. And David avoided out of his presence twice.