

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

You Will Be Changed Into A Different Person – 1 Samuel & Psalm 51

Overview: We all experience change in our lives – even in our relationship with God. The Biblical accounts of two Old Testament Kings, Saul and David, provide some insight into properly handling change. Their paths had some similar elements, but their endings were quite different. As believers we do not need to navigate spiritual change on our own. We have the Holy Spirit to guide us.

Hearing Our Stories: Dave Ebeling

Segment Questions:

- What has changed for you that has been hard to accept? What change has been welcomed?
- God uses words like “changed Saul’s heart” and “I regret I made Saul king.” What does this say about how God viewed Saul? What do you think it felt like from Saul’s perspective to have this said of you?
- “You are the man,” declared Nathan. Have you observed this in your life – either addressing a wrong or being challenged to see your own problem? Tell your story.
- “Create...Renew...Do not reject me...Restore”. David prayed these words (Psalm 51) after being confronted by Nathan. What prayer(s) or Bible verses do you have in your heart that express your confidence in God’s grace...especially in a time you are challenged by your sins?

Action Questions:

- What is a way you have seen your life changed in the past year?
- From the list of nine characteristics that describe the “fruit of the Spirit”, which one (or maybe two) have you observed in a Christian brother you admire? Is there one that you especially feel the need to personally practice more often?
- Could this nine-fold definition of the “fruit of the Spirit” be said of a very moral non-believer as well as of a Christian? Why or why not?
- Read Luke 12:11-12 again. In what circumstances might you find yourself in a position of defending your faith? Have you had a personal experience in which the words you needed “at that time” were inspiration of the Spirit of God?

Personal Prayer:

I come to you, Father, along with these men of faith gathered here today, to praise you for sending your Holy Spirit into our lives. As we continue to explore your Word, send your Spirit to work in us the confidence to share the Good News of forgiveness and eternal life that are ours through faith in Jesus Christ. Increase our focus on those around us, in our families and at our work, who do not yet have the Spirit-filled life of a Christian. By displaying love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control, may I – and all here gathered – be a reflection of your love and grace. In the name of your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Introduction

Change is inevitable. A bit of reflection reminds us that change is happening in our lives. Personal characteristics change -- hairstyle, weight, even skin tone. Families change -- births, weddings, funerals, dissensions. Health changes -- accidents, medical diagnosis, worrisome symptoms. Vocations change -- new job or lost job, different role, more responsibilities, or co-worker relationships. Changes also happen in our relationship to God.

This lesson focuses on two familiar Old Testament men whose lives were inter-twined for many years: Saul and David. The changes in their lives were the result of the power of the Spirit of God in response to their respective actions. The theme of this study comes from the words of the prophet Samuel as he informed Saul that he would be Israel's first king: *"The Spirit of the LORD will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and **you will be changed into a different person.**"* I Samuel 10:6
Six scenes recorded in Scripture set the stage for seeing how Saul and David were changed:

Scene 1: I Samuel 10:9 As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul's heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day.

Scene 2: I Samuel 15: 10-11 Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel: ¹¹"I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions."

Scene 3: I Samuel 16:13-14 Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Now the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him.

Scene 4: II Samuel 11:26-27 When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD.

Scene 5: 2 Samuel 12:7 Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man!"

Scene 6: Psalm 51:10-12 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Both men followed a similar path: from being unknown -- to being chosen by God -- to being Spirit-filled -- to becoming powerful -- to making a bad decision. But their stories ended differently. Saul was sorry he got caught; David was sorry he sinned.

St. Paul addressed the power of the Spirit in his letter to the Galatians: "So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:16-23

Grasp these words of warning and encouragement by Jesus to His disciples (including us): "When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say." Luke 12:11-12)