

Week of March 4, 2018

This Week's Focus: Jesus is the better and final anointed Prophet, Priest, and King who crushed the great enemies sin, Satan, and death.

This Week's Text: 1 Samuel 9-10:1

"Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, "'Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed'— for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place." Acts 4:24–28

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text?
- Briefly recount the story from 1 Samuel 1-8. What's the state of affairs in Israel at the beginning of chapter 8? What kind of king did the people want? Reference 1 Samuel 8:11-17. How did he differ from God's chosen king? Reference Deuteronomy 17:14-20.
- Who does the author introduce to us in chapter 9? What dilemma does he find himself in?
 What similarities do you see between the beginning of chapter 1 and the beginning of chapter 9?
- What have you learned about the nature of God from this text? Where in this passage do we see manifestations God's sovereignty and his divine providence? What does Scripture teach about the sovereignty of God and human responsibility? Reference Proverbs 16:33, 21:1; Isaiah 46:10; Romans 1:18-20; Psalm 2.
- Share some ways God has revealed his sovereign power and providence in your life. How does your perception of God and life change knowing that God has sovereignly placed you in your particular set circumstances for his glory and your good? Reference Acts 17:26-28.

- Why is Saul given the title of prince or leader rather than king? In what way will God use to Saul to restrain Israel? Give examples of how God has graciously provided restraints in your life.
 What has this taught you about him and about yourself?
- What is Samuel's role in Saul's anointing as king of Israel? Why do you think God anointed Saul as king knowing that he would eventually prove to be an unfaithful servant of God?
- Discuss how is Jesus the better and greater Anointed One ("Messiah") sent by God into the ordinariness of human life to fulfill his extraordinary plan.